2016-2017

REWIND

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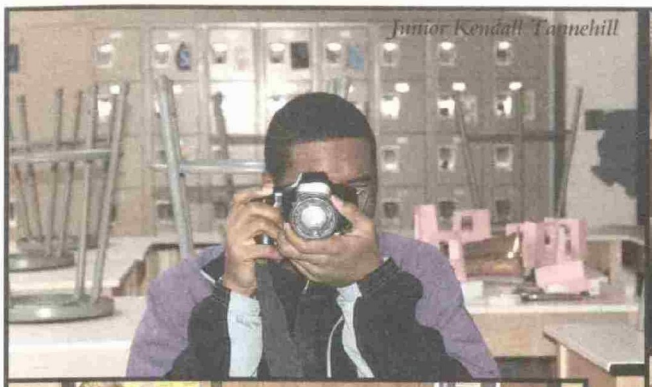
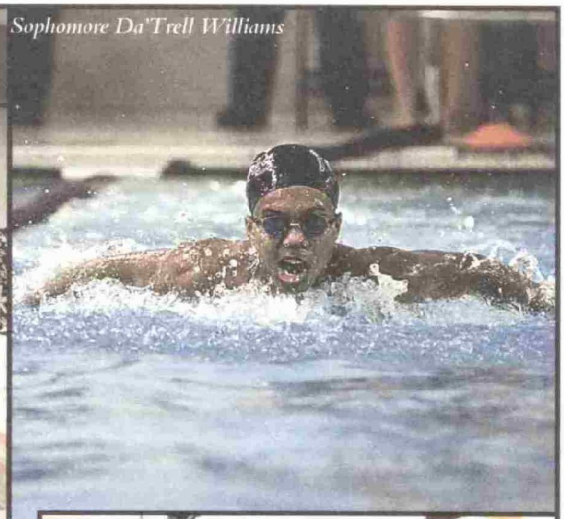
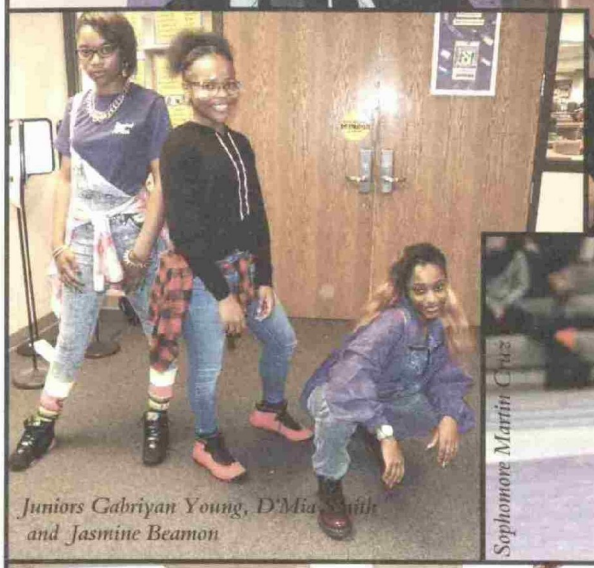


Junior Kendall Tannehill

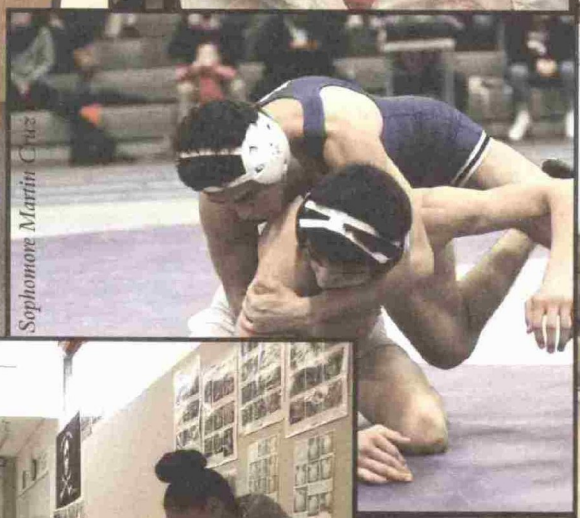
Sophomore Joenathan Smith
Senior Clara Tyrone



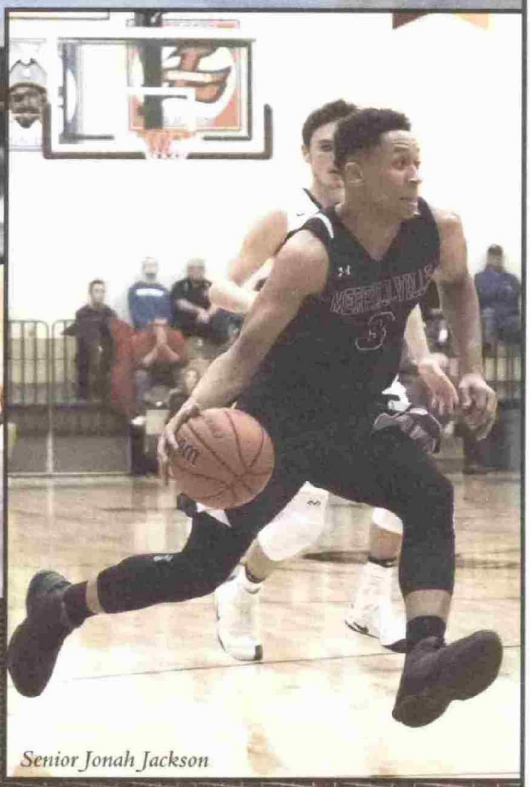
Sophomore Da'Trell Williams



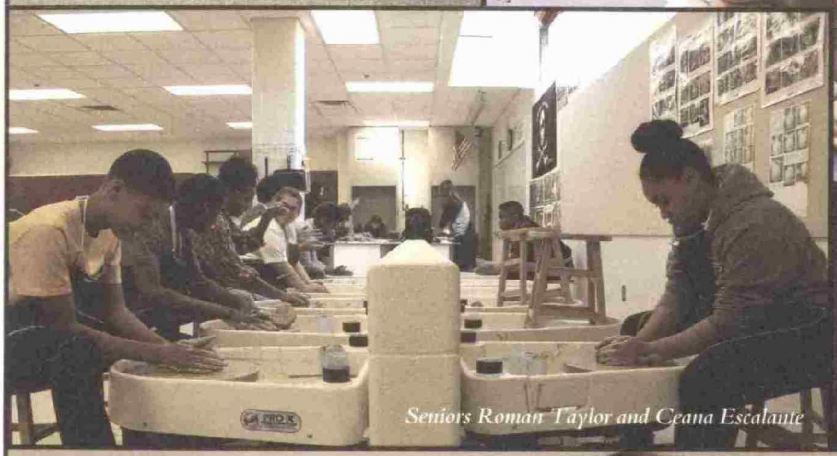
Juniors Gabriyan Young, D'Mia Smith and Jasmine Beamon



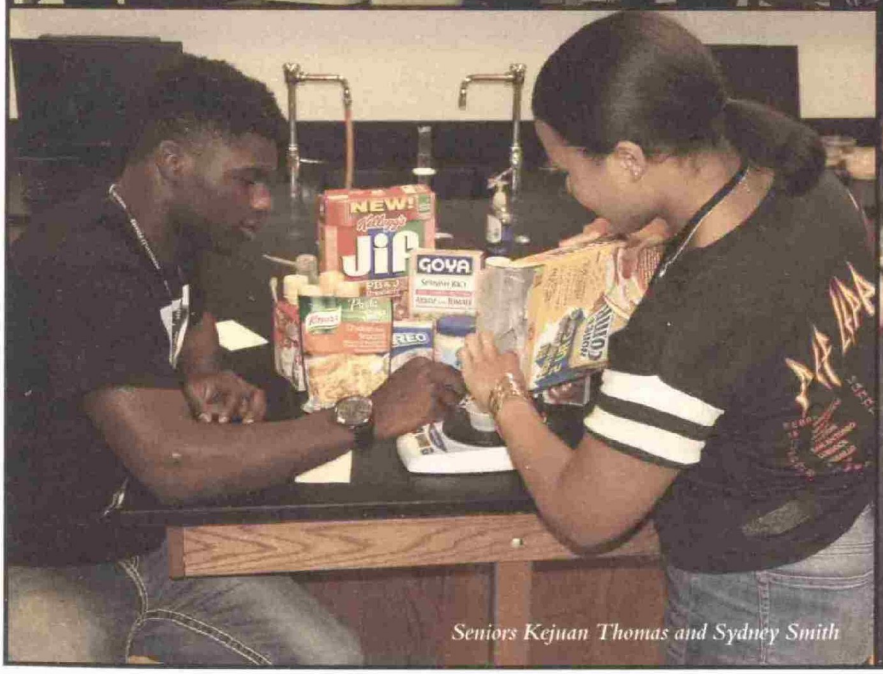
Sophomore Martin Cruz



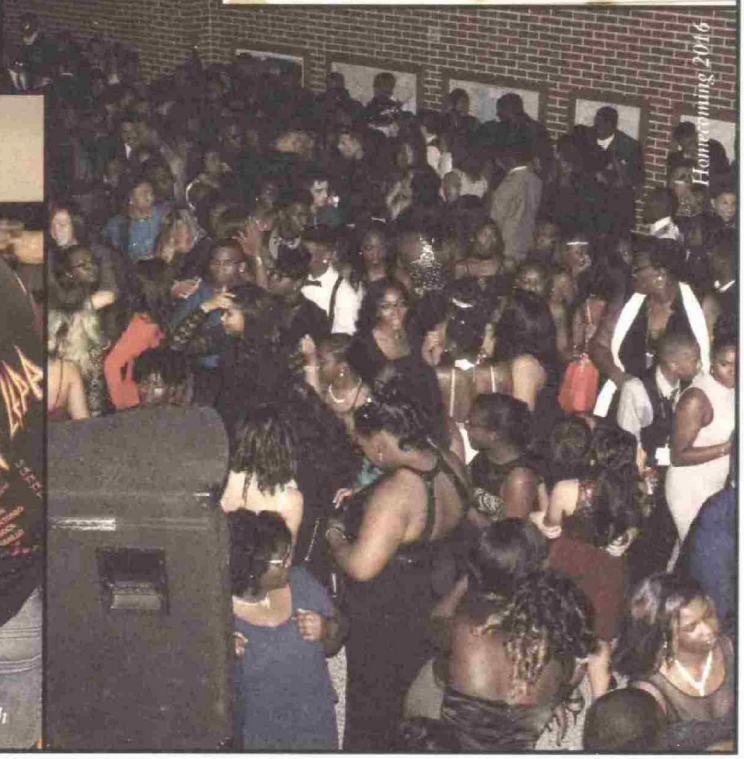
Senior Jonah Jackson



Seniors Roman Taylor and Ceana Escalante



Seniors Kejuan Thomas and Sydney Smith



Homecoming 2016

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Back to the beginning.

Merrillville High School
Merrillvue Vol. 92
276 East 68th Place
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
(219) 650-5307
www.mvsc.k12.in.us/mhs
Enrollment: 2186

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Playing all of

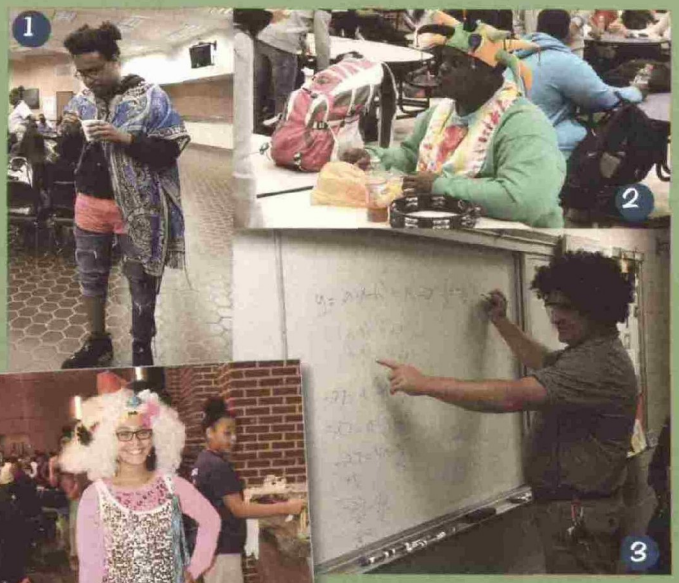
the moments

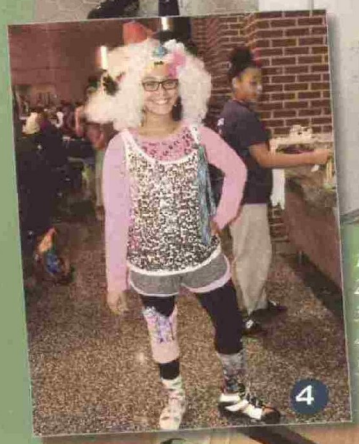
During a performance of "Scrooge" in Reinhart Auditorium, Junior Cardalina Hernandez, Alumna Cassidy Koontz, Sophomore Aniya Edwards, Senior Nakita Weaver, Alumna Rebekah Mongold and Junior Nicole Hollowell sing holiday carols. "My favorite part was the 'Thank You Very Much' song. We laughed and cheered at Scrooge's future death," Edwards said. Produced annually by M & M Ross Music Theatre since 1996 and sponsored by Choir Boosters, "Scrooge" tells the story of a bitter man who values money over people. Three ghosts visit him to transform him after he visits his past and future.

Wacky Tacky Day

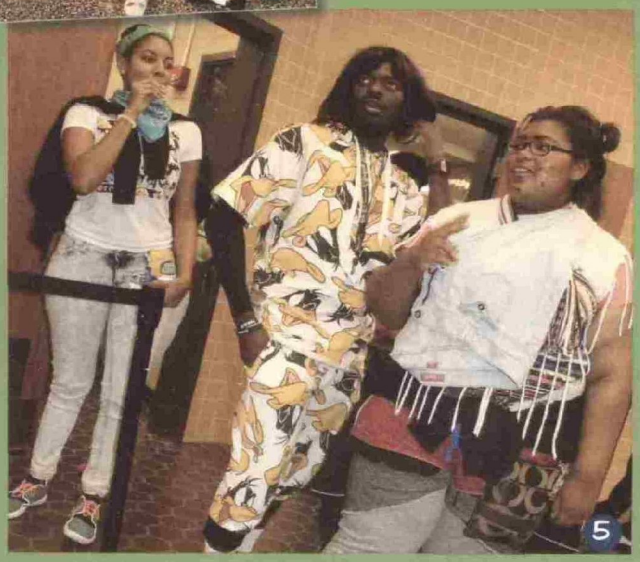
5 ways to pull it off

* Raid your parents' closet
* Throw out all rules of matching
* Wear as many colors as possible
* Find head to toe accessories
* Mix patterns
* Throw everything on and look as crazy as possible





1. Senior Jakobe Edmond
2. Freshman Justyn Jones
3. Assistant Principal Tim James
4. Freshman Briana Thomas
5. Seniors Danielle Figueroa, Devyn Williams, Tatyanah Cross



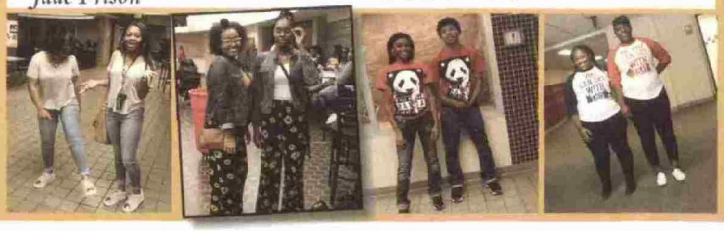
My memory:

we R twins

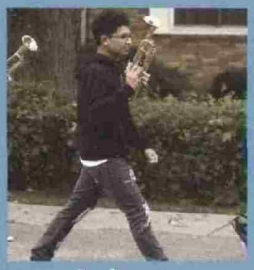
Twin Day: It's like looking into a mirror
* Find a partner
* Choose matching clothing
* Consult on hair style
* Check mirrors

Seniors Dajon Newton and Nehemiah Nunnery

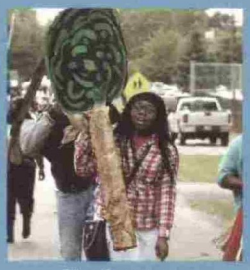
Juniors Ta-Tiana Gillis and Jade Frison	*Seniors Anya Johnson and Gelena Jones*	*Seniors Alexus Shirrells and Traevon Banks*	*Seniors Areiana Whiteside and Shaquita Moore*



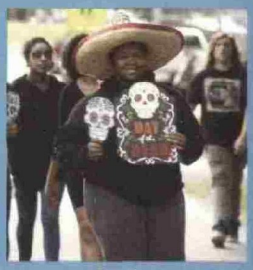
Parade



Sophomore Sebastian Diaz



Freshman Aaliyah Perry

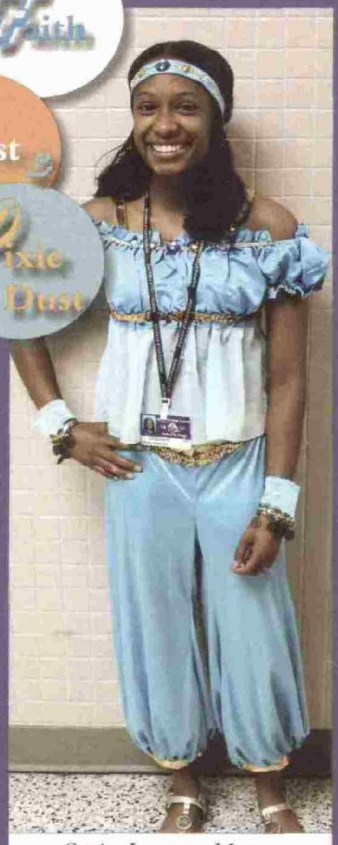


Junior Monique Guydon

Faith

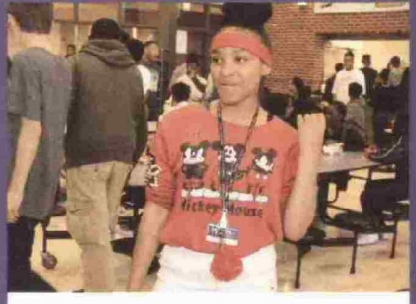
Trust

Pixie Dust



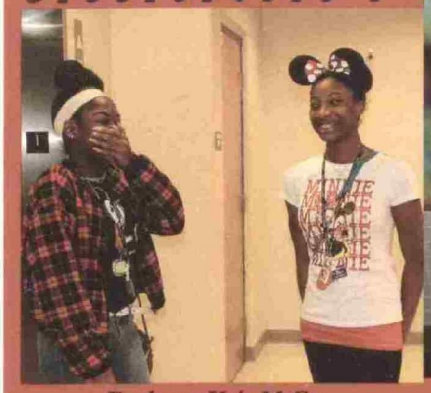
Senior Jazmyne Magee

Freshmen Gabrielle Malave and Gabriela Aponte



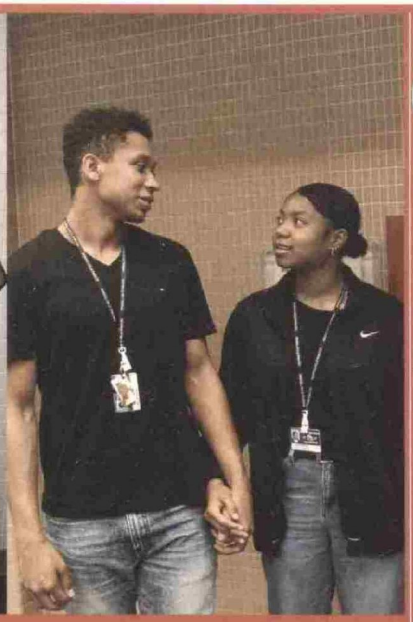
Freshman Dakari Ervin

what U thinkin'?



Freshmen Kyla McCoy and Chyna Royster

Junior Carly Gubitz



Seniors Jonah Jackson and Kiarra Thompson

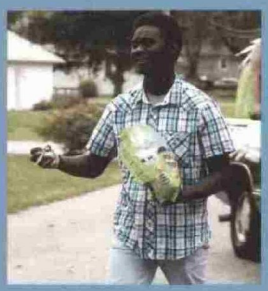
Q What was the best part of Homecoming Week 2016?

"We really liked Twin Day and matching each other."

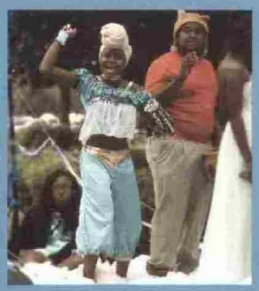
Freshman Kyla McCoy

My Answer:

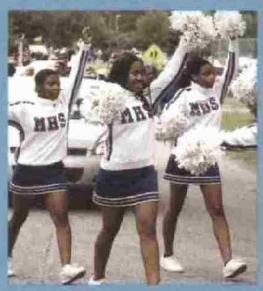
A



Senior Tyreak Thomas

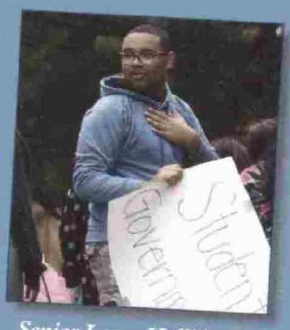


Junior Carrington Morse

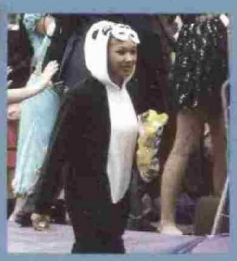


Dance Team

Art Club

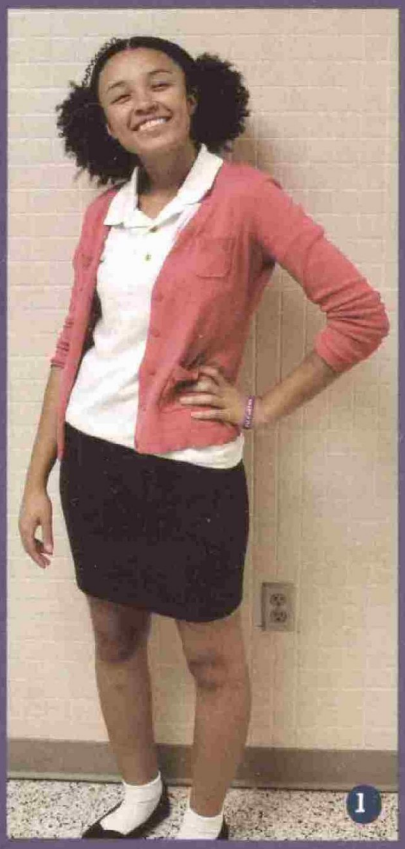


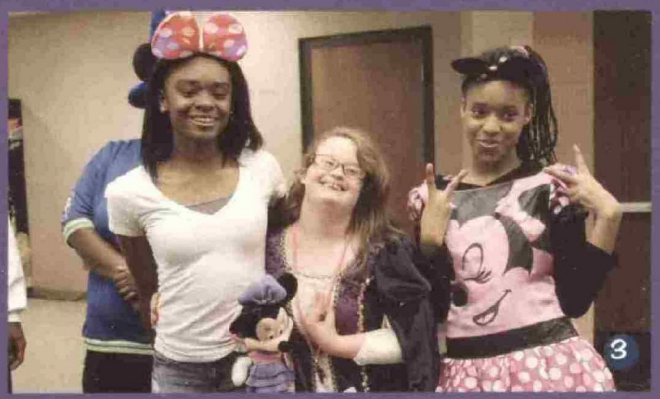
Senior Leroy Holliday Jr.



Sophomore Bailey Rapavi

Disney Dress-up



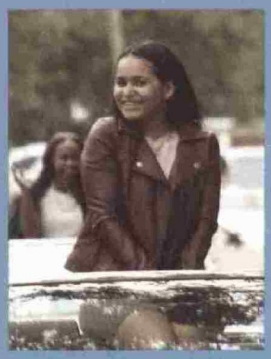


How to

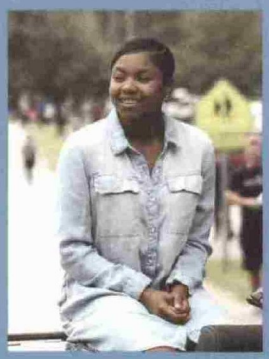
Disney Day: If it doesn't feel like Disney World when you walk in, walk out

* Decide on a Disney character
* Research how to dress up like the character
* Find or purchase accessories
* Put it all together for the final Disney look

1. Junior Tatiana Peters
2. Freshman Skye Skimehorn
3. Senior Alexus Shirrells, Sophomore Hanna Stevens, Freshman Jaquisha Haymon



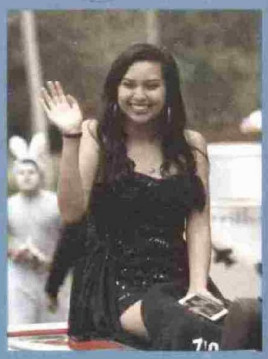
Senior Cynthia Gomez



Senior Kiarra Thompson

2016 Homecoming Queen Court

Senior Jazmyne Magee



Senior Rachel Rodriguez

Naming Mr. Football

During the Homecoming game halftime, wide receiver Senior James Kirklen Jr. and Coach Brad Seiss are arm in arm after Kirklen is named Mr. Football. "I was so proud of myself because I actually accomplished that goal," Kirklen said. "Ever since freshman year, I wanted to be in that specific spotlight and experience what all the old Mr. Football winners went through."

The Game

September 30 started off in a cold rain, and ended with the Pirates on the losing end of a 20-15 game against Valparaiso. That Friday night included many festivities.

It kicked off with the pregame, honoring the 1976 state football champions, Merrillville's only state title in football. From their spots in the back of the north endzone, they watched the 2016 Pirate football team suffer their fourth loss of the season.

The Pirates took another tough loss early in the game, when starting quarterback Sophomore Cameron Wright went down with a broken collarbone in the first offensive drive of the game.

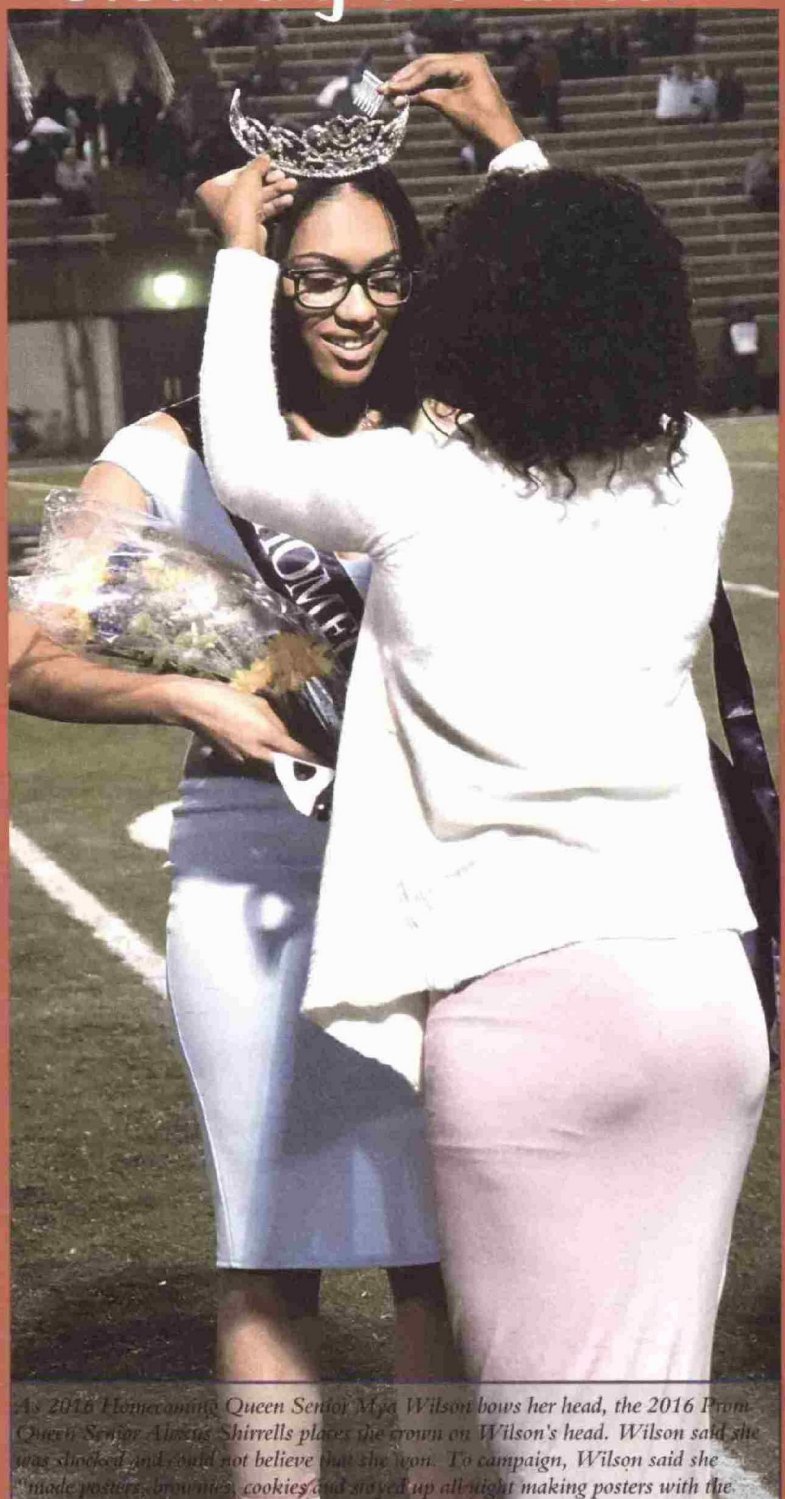
Junior Timeah Hicks

Junior Davion Ervin

Junior Ke'leica Junigan

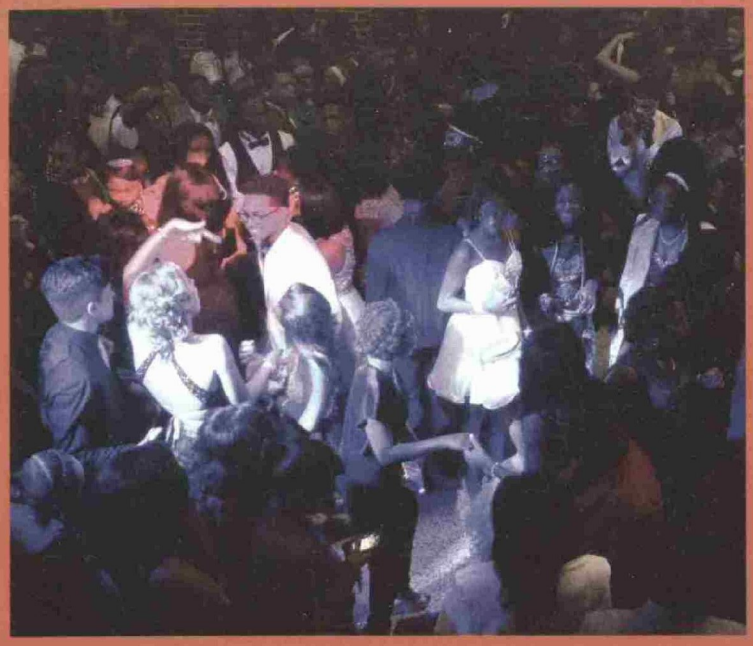
Senior Andrew Vander Woude

Crowning the Queen



As 2016 Homecoming Queen Senior Mya Wilson bows her head, the 2016 Prom Queen Senior Alexus Shirrells places the crown on Wilson's head. Wilson said she was shocked and could not believe that she won. To campaign, Wilson said she "made posters, brownies, cookies and stayed up all night making posters with the help of my two best friends." She said she also posted pictures on social media.

Masquerade



A sell-out crowed enjoyed a Homecoming celebration in the Hall of Flags October 1.

Student Council members decided on a masquerade theme for this year's dance. Ticket prices ranged from $17 to $25 per person, depending on when students purchased their tickets.

Senior Anthony Sams Jr. attended the dance with Courtney Franklin.

"I loved the theme of Homecoming because I got to wear a mask. I believe that more people should have participated," Sams said.

Junior Dominique Holden noted a few bumps in the road as she got ready to go to the dance with her date, Khari Smith.

"The preparation was hard because I had to get my nails done and my dress did not fit, so I had to get it altered at the last minute," Holden said.

Senior Tevon Lockett can attest to a great Homecoming experience.

"It was the best night ever because I got to spend time with the girl I love and I got to spend time with all my friends," Lockett said.

During the dance, finger foods, such as barbecue chicken and rib tips, were served. Cupcakes and chocolate chip, sugar, M&M and oatmeal cookies satisfied guests' sweet tooth.

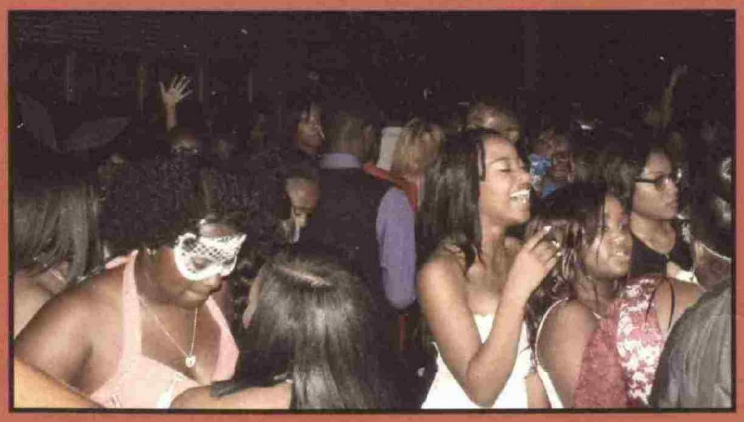
Mrs. Sarwat Choudhry served in the Hospitality Room.

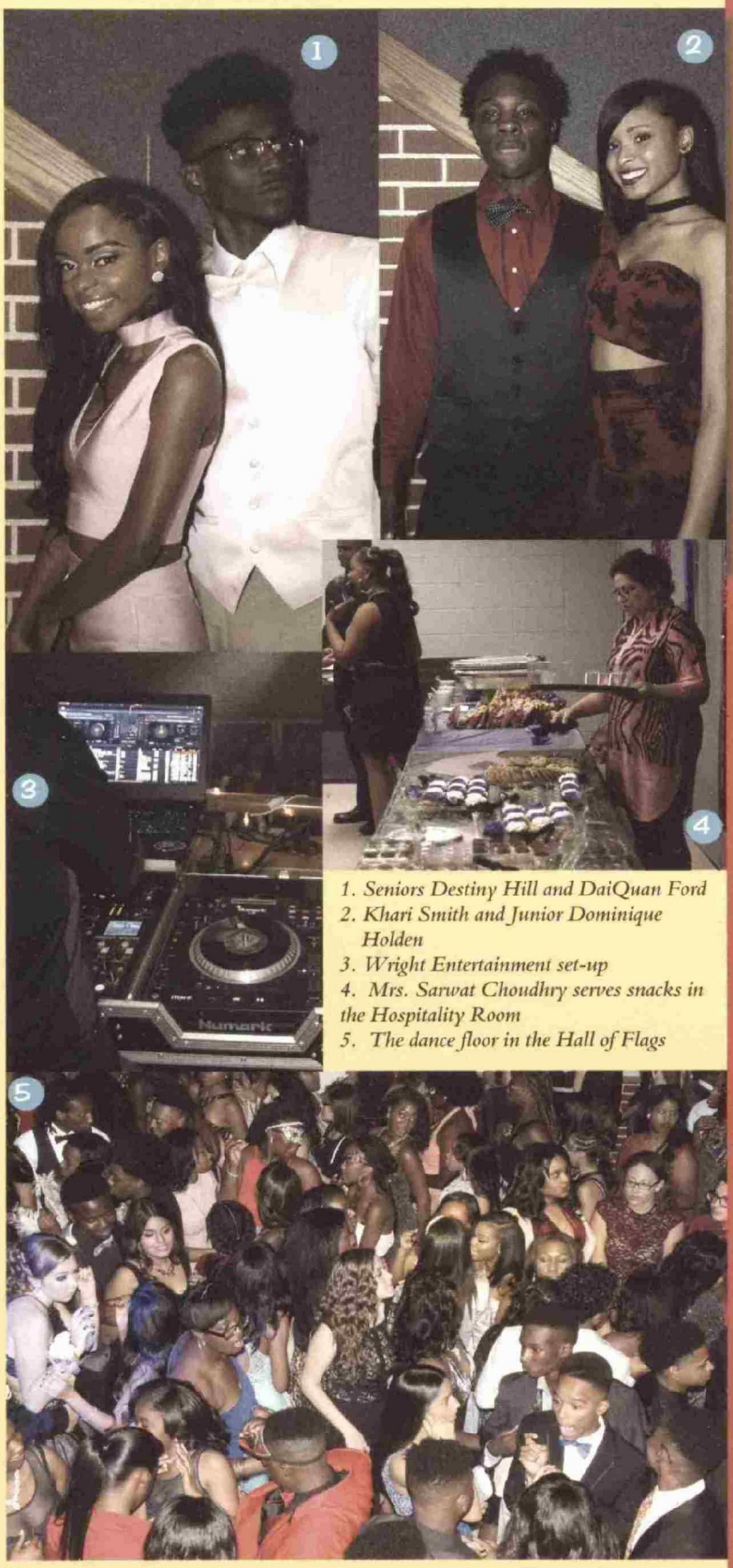
"I enjoyed my time there and this was actually my first time serving food at Homecoming. Everyone looked really nice and seemed like they were having a lot of fun," Mrs. Choudhry said.

Once the clock struck 10 p.m., the dance came to an end, but the night was not over for some students.

Senior Danielle Figueroa was one of many students to make their night last.

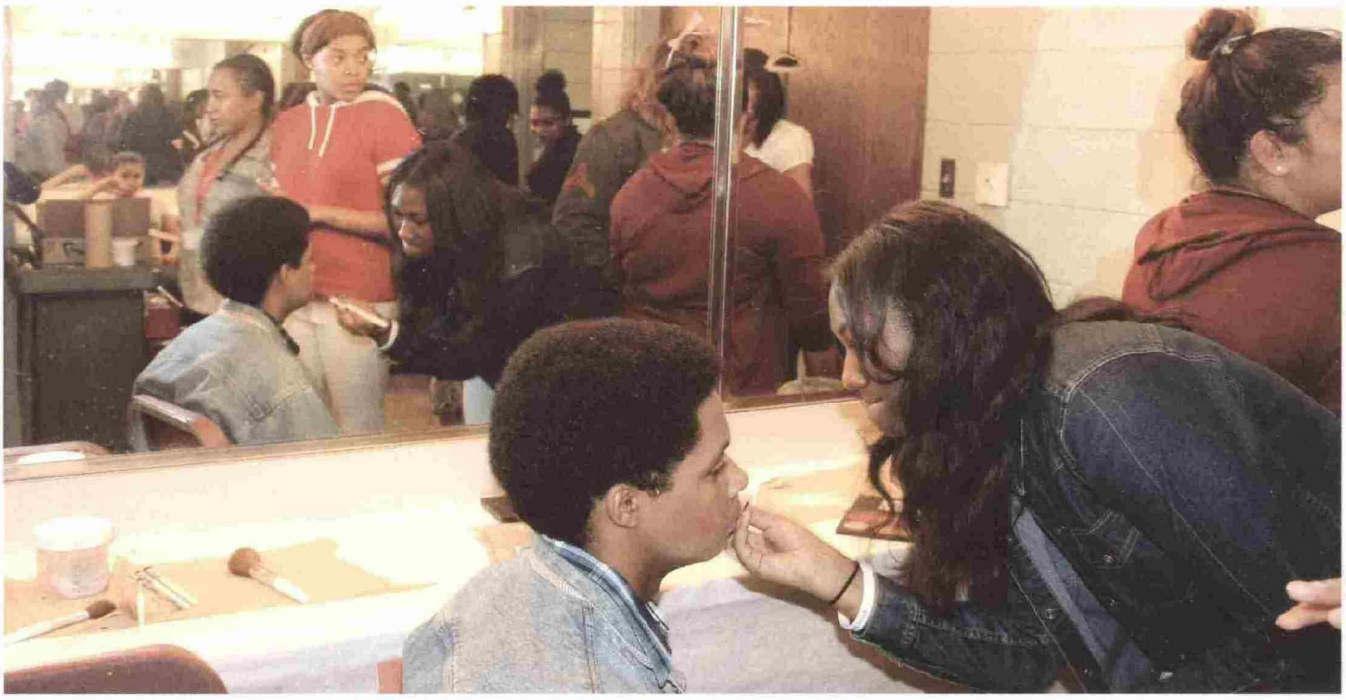
"It was really great," Figueroa said. "We went to Outback Steak House and the food was delicious."





1. Seniors Destiny Hill and DaiQuan Ford
2. Khari Smith and Junior Dominique Holden
3. Wright Entertainment set-up
4. Mrs. Sarwat Choudhry serves snacks in the Hospitality Room
5. The dance floor in the Hall of Flags

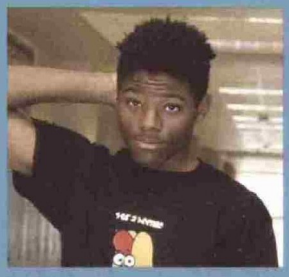
My memory:



In the crowded dressing room of Reinhart Auditorium, Sophomore Jordan Holmes sits as Junior Jordyn Bates applies the finishing touches to complete his farmer costume. "There's a lot more make-up when the actor is an animal," Sophomore Jadyn Lawson said. Some animals' makeup designs were harder to figure out than others. "The makeup for Mollie the white horse changed so many times, it wasn't even figured out by the night of the dress rehearsal," Lawson said.

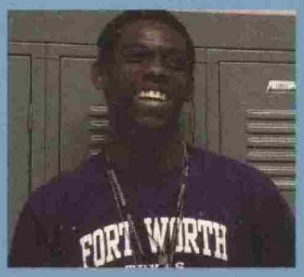
"Animal Farm" Main Characters

Senior Alisha Mongold
Napoleon the pig



Senior Christopher Howard
Old Major the boar

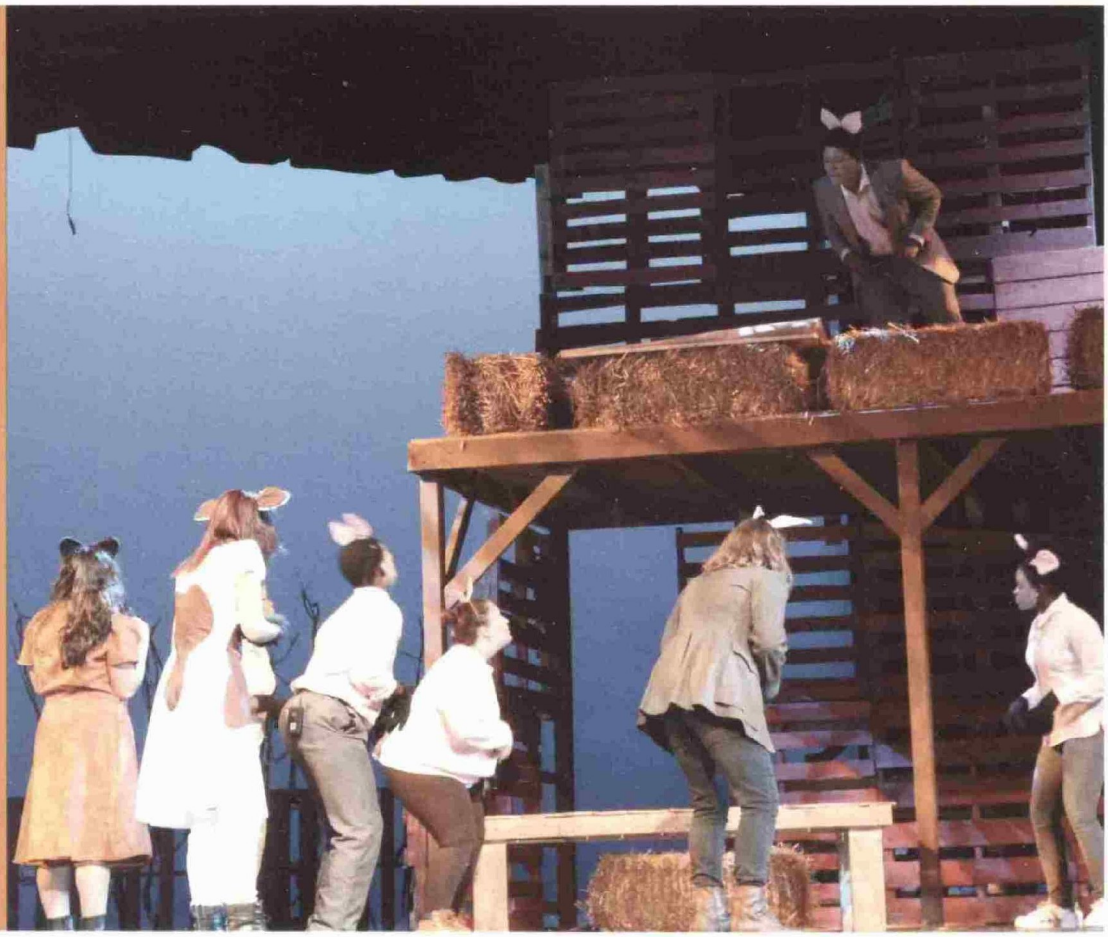
Junior Ferdinand Aton
Snowball the pig



Sophomore Jordan Munchenburg
Squealer the pig

The Animals Revolt

Giving insight to the animals on his future and how it will affect them, Old Major the boar (Senior Christopher Howard) informs the animals that his death is near. He encourages the animals to revolt against the farmer, who has become an abusive alcoholic, and encourages them to become educated by reading and writing. "Old Major is a symbol for Karl Marx, a communist philosopher," Mr. Mackey said. Marx, who wrote "The Communist Manifesto," was instrumental in forming the communist country of Russia. Early in the play, the animals attack the farmer and take over the farm, renaming it "Animal Farm."



Election year: The perfect time for 'Animal Farm'

With the presidential elections in full swing, 2016 was the perfect time for the play "Animal Farm" to be presented on stage.

Thespian Troupe sponsor and director of the fall play, Mr. Thomas Mackey, said the play illustrates parallels to current events.

"I picked this play because of the similarities found in 'Animal Farm' and our current political climate," Mr. Mackey said.

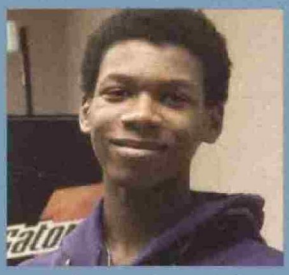
"The hardest part with the costuming was having to build the animals into our clothing," Freshman Angelina Wilkins said.

Performers practiced daily after school beginning at 3:30 p.m. Sometimes rehearsals ended at 6 p.m., but as opening night neared, students found themselves at school until 8:30 p.m. drilling lines and perfecting blocking.

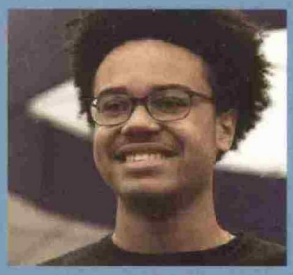
"It was really hard turning into an animal without having a full animal costume. I had to develop the mannerisms of an animal and maintain that character the entire time," Sophomore Jadyn Lawson said.

The theme of "Animal Farm" illustrates the importance of individuals taking responsibility for their own lives and making decisions for themselves.

"Everyone should be well educated in their government and what the laws are," Senior Jakobe Edmond said, "or else you'll be misused and mistreated."



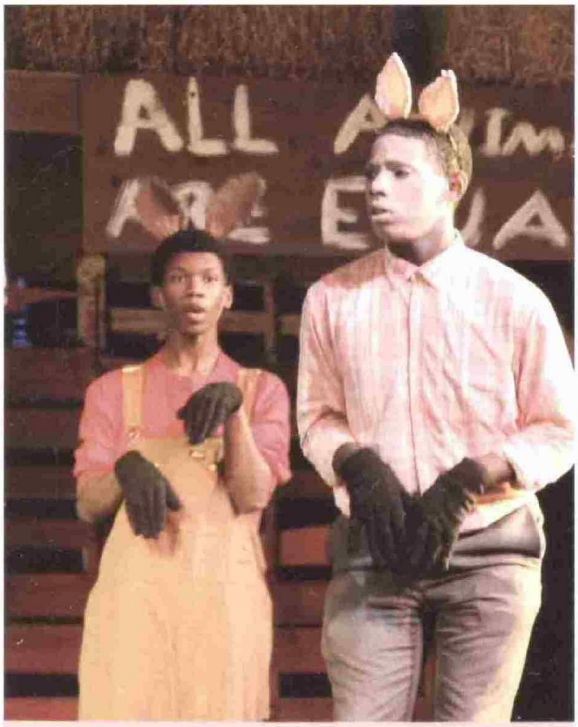
Sophomore Yancy Tyler
Boxer the horse



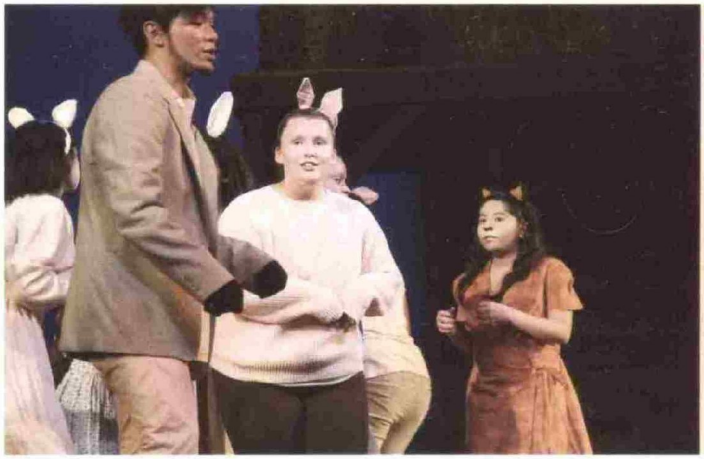
Senior Jakobe Edmond
Benjamin the donkey

Junior Mia Godfrey
Clover the horse

Junior Armni Smith
Mollie the horse



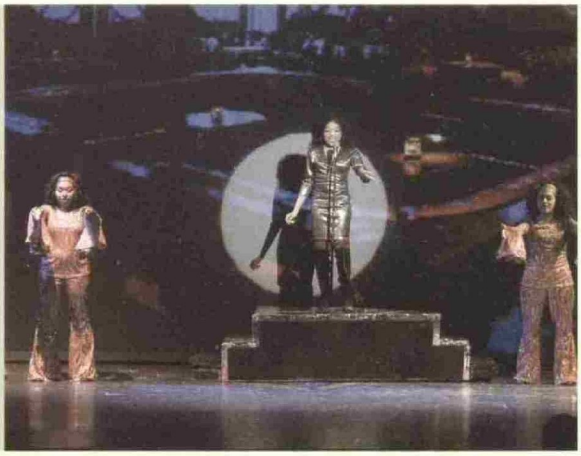
By the barn house, Boxer the horse (Sophomore Yancy Tyler), who never stops working, listens to Squealer (Sophomore Jordan Munchenburg) as Squealer tells the animals that the pigs on the farm know best because they were the most educated of the animals. "My preparation was more mental than physical preparation, and I had a mental state of, 'If I don't do it right, then I shouldn't do it at all'," Tyler said.

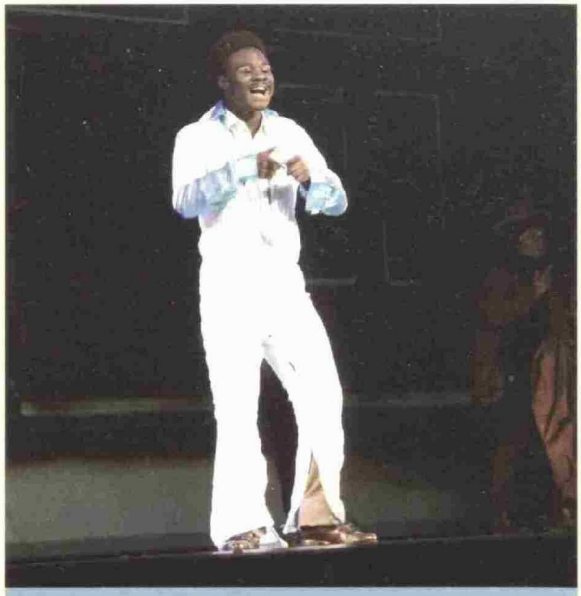


Around the farm, pigs control the work of the other animals. "The goal of the pigs was to convince all the other animals that everyone was equal," Sophomore Jadyn Lawson said. "It wasn't that hard because many of them weren't that smart anyway." As long as the pigs had control over the other animals, how they worked and what they ate, then havoc was kept at a minimum.

In utter distress, animals grieve over the loss of their hard-working friend Boxer the horse. "Boxer was such a hard worker that he worked himself to his own death," Senior Jakobe Edmond said. Cast members said they were challenged to execute the proper emotional context for each scene. "'Animal Farm' was a difficult play, but had a great outcome," Senior Nia Wells said. "Many of us practiced for hours a day until everything for that scene was perfect."

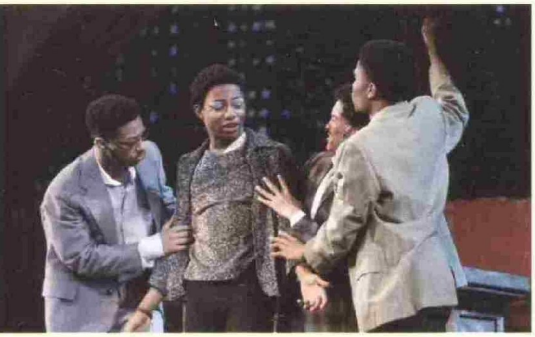
Auditioning to be a night singer at gangster Curtis Jackson's night club, Deloris Van Cartier (Sophomore Aniya Edwards) sings "Take Me to Heaven". In preparing for this role, Edwards had to embody an entire new life, playing the role of a lonely narcissist just trying to make her mark on the singing world. "I wanted to play that outgoing and strange character that Deloris is a prime example of," Edwards said. "Take Me to Heaven" was Deloris's seduction song to Curtis in hopes it would get her a spot in his singing club.





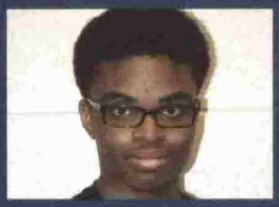
Knowing he has what it takes to love someone like Deloris Van Cartier, Eddie Souther (Senior Tyreak Thomas) sings "I Could Be That Guy". The costume in this scene represents Eddie's transitions through his self-esteem. "This scene was so difficult, and the costume was very hard to get together. I was actually unable to practice the entire song until the day of the play because the costume wasn't ready until the night of the play," Thomas said.

As "Unnamed Drag Queen" (Junior Trenton Hutch) tries to enjoy her time at the bar, she is disrupted and unwillingly undressed. When Curtis's goons see the "Unnamed Drag Queen", they assume it to be Deloris and try to capture her. "This wasn't the part I auditioned for at all. I tried for Eddie, but when cast was low on options, I was willing to try something completely different," Hutch said. Mrs. Reinhart spent weeks preparing her cast for a play very new to their style of work.



Senior Cynthia Hindmon
Mother Superior

Senior Tyreak Thomas
Eddie Souther



Junior John Grace Jr.
TJ

Sophomore Aniya Edwards
Deloris Van Cartier

Cast learns to relate to new characters

As the first group of actors in the Calumet Region to produce "Sister Act" the musical, the cast and production staff knew they were in for a journey that would challenge them.

At the same time, most were excited to bring the story to the stage.

"It was really a huge honor," Senior Tyreak Thomas said.

Many people think first of the movie "Sister Act" starring Whoopi Goldberg, and the cast said they feared they couldn't meet the expectations because of the different genre of music in the play. Cast members also had to become characters unlike themselves.

Throughout the three-hour rehearsals, five days a week, for two months, cast members said they eventually found a connection with their characters.

"I think I can kind of relate to Deloris's kind of ambitious attitude," Sophomore Aniya Edwards said. Edwards sang the lead and played Deloris Van Cartier, a lounge singer who aspires to greater fame.

While Edwards said she had no problem connecting to her character, others said they had some trouble finding theirs.

"I had to learn to be a completely different person," Junior John Grace Jr. said.

Grace played a henchman for Curtis Jackson, who murders a police informant. Deloris sees the murder and goes into hiding in a convent.

Grace said he and his character are polar opposites in a sense that TJ is smooth and says things to girls that he would never say.

"Me and my character don't relate at all. She's an old lady that raps, and I'm a singer. I don't rap," Junior Nicole Hollowell said. Hollowell played two roles — the rapping Sister Mary Lazarus and Tina, a dancer in Deloris's act.

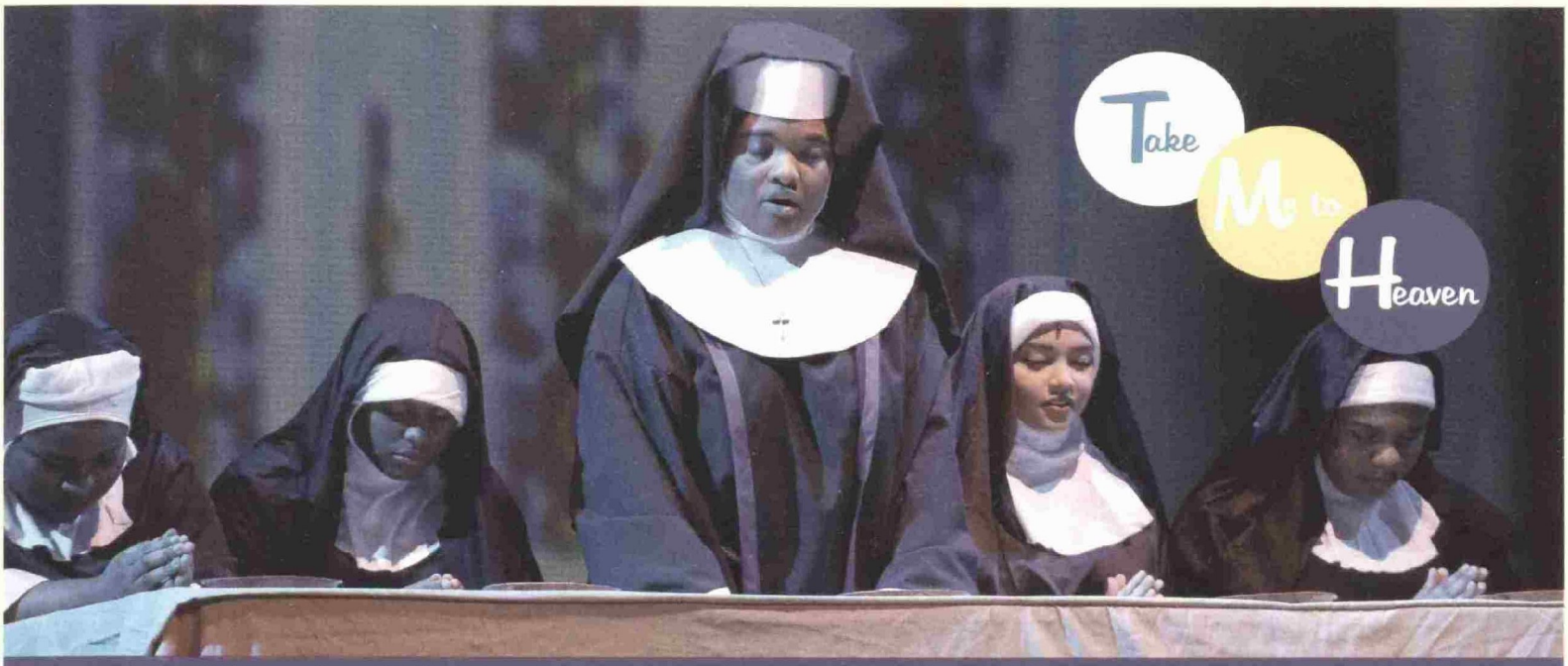
Both Hollowell and Grace had to put their differences with their characters aside, and the cast, over time, created a special bond as they went through the challenges of learning lines and songs and running and dancing in nuns' habits.

"We have the type of people that can improvise and roll with the punches," Edwards said.

Fourteen nuns perform in the dance number for the song, "Raise Your Voice," and the other nun scenes. When one was missing, it was hard for the other nuns to figure out where they were supposed to be onstage.

"Having everyone in the same room at the same time was like herding cats," Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart said.

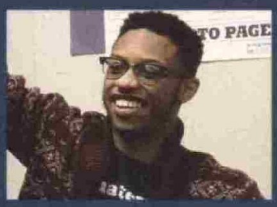
"I had three goons in the show, and I got really close to them because we had to learn dances and rehearse together every day," Sophomore Lucas Reinhart said. "We were sort of like brothers by the end, even though we annoyed each other sometimes."



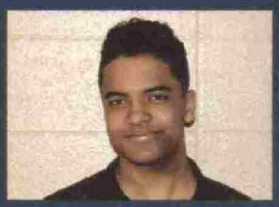
As the nuns gather for Christmas dinner, Mother Superior (Senior Cynthia Hindmon) leads the group in a blessing before the meal. After constant disruption from Deloris Van Cartier, Mother calls a fast to teach Deloris discipline. "This character is not really easy because she's supposed to be stern and strict, not necessarily mean, and that's what I continued to mix up. I did have to do research for this character to find her age and personality and other things," Hindmon said. As Deloris is kept in protective housing with the nuns, they soon teach her that other things should hold more importance than herself. The nuns also learn from Deloris how to sing, dance and speak up for themselves. Their relationship becomes one that feeds off of each other and a bond that Deloris can only call a true sisterhood.

Junior Mia Godfrey
Sister Mary Robert

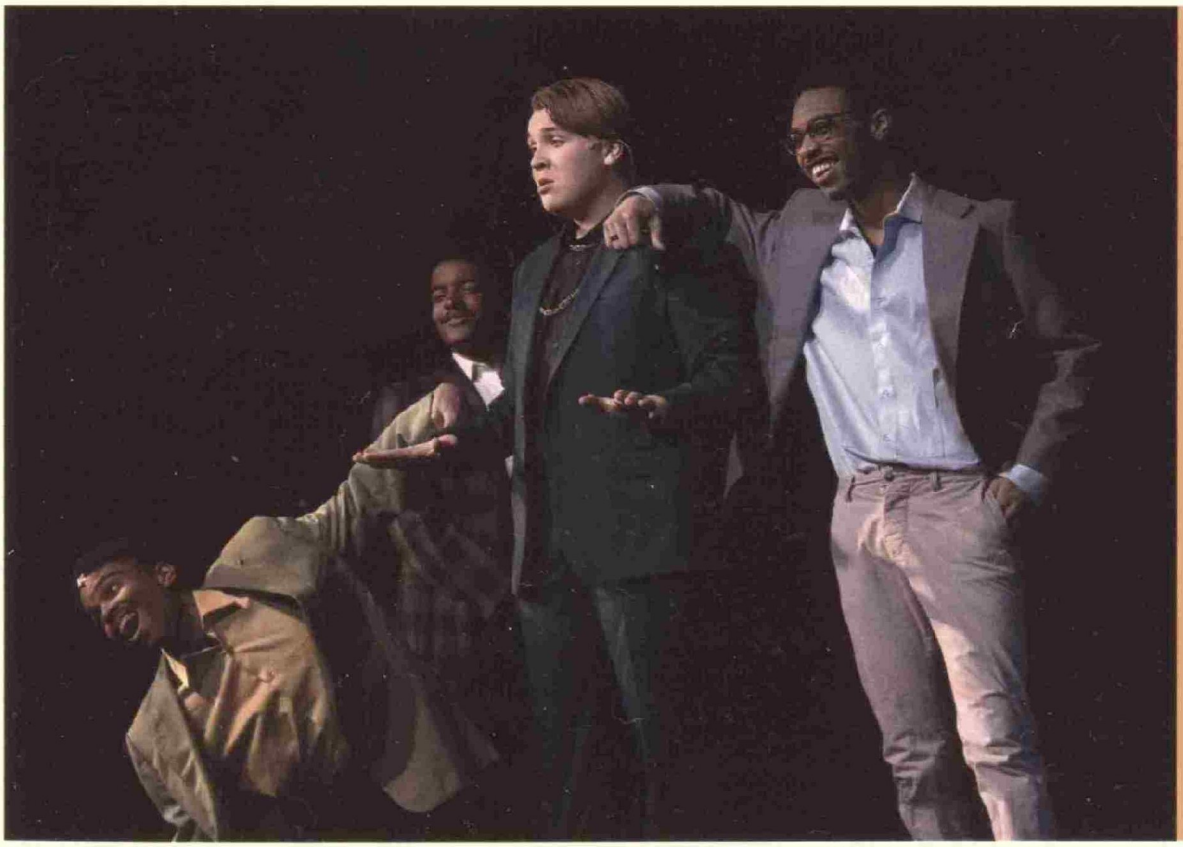
Sophomore Lucas Reinhart
Curtis Jackson



Senior Ronald Brewer
Joey

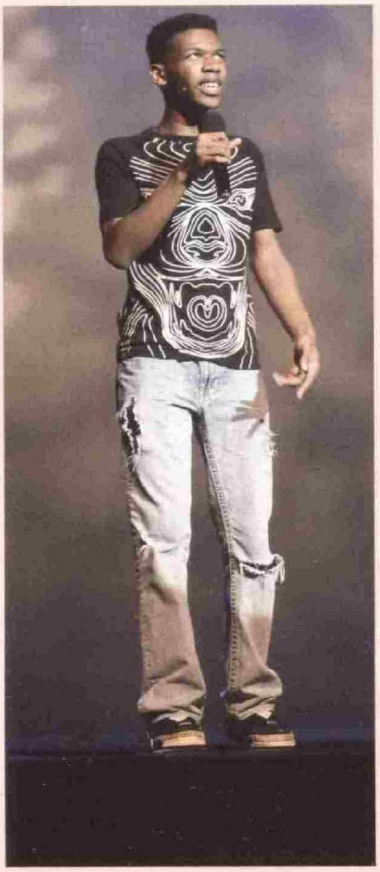


Senior Brian Moore
Pablo

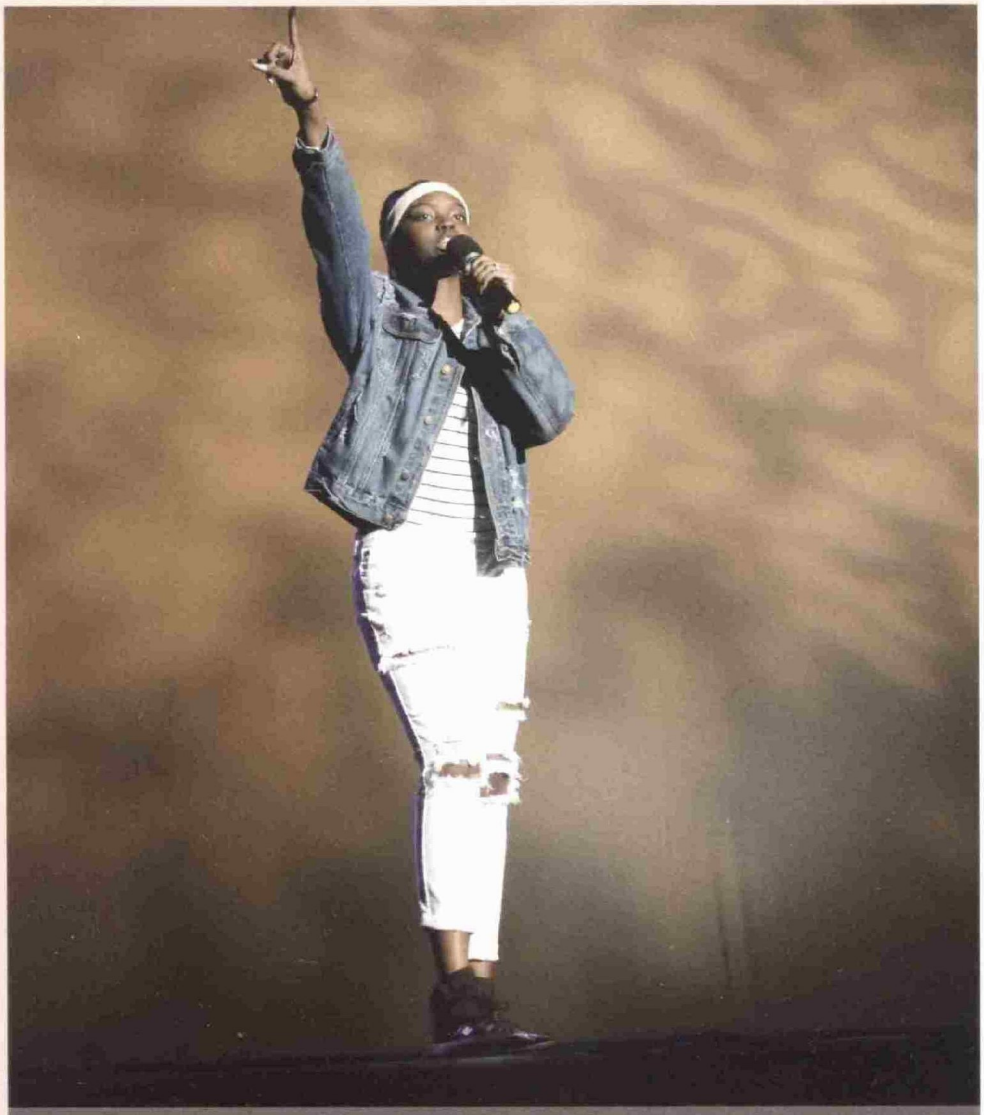


As they hunt for the whereabouts of Deloris Van Cartier, Curtis Jackson (Sophomore Lucas Reinhart) sings "When I Find My Baby." "This was a hard part to embody because in the movie and play, Curtis is two different races, which brings two totally different feelings. I wanted to find a way to combine the two without offending anyone," Reinhart said. The song in this scene tells the awful things Curtis would do to Deloris if he finds where she's hiding. Their relationship is a loveless affair that turns worse when Deloris rats Curtis out for a murder she witnessed him commit. "We're so used to more of the classical style of singing and dancing, and this style is so modern it was kind of hard to get comfortable with it," Senior Ronald Brewer said. "The hardest thing for me would have to be the dancing because I am the most uncoordinated person ever."

Students shine in off-Broadway Revue



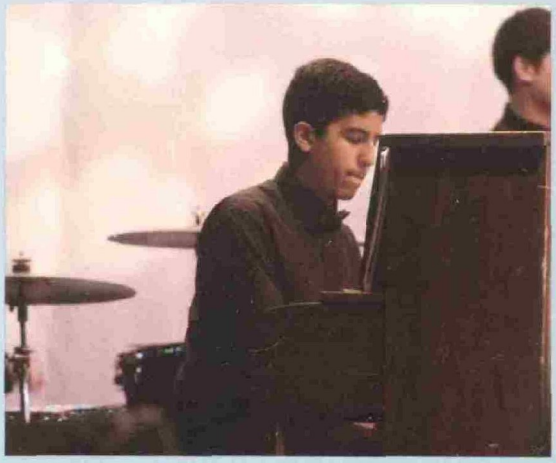
For the first time on stage, Sophomore Yancy Tyler Jr., performs his rap "Switch Up", about someone who falls out of love. "I tried out last year and didn't get in," Tyler said, "I rapped my best song and I knew that if I didn't make it again this year I would just have to work harder." Tyler has been practicing since June and believes all of his hard work and faith helped him do his best.



After writing an original song, Sophomore Kayla Buggs raps "Groove" for the audience at the Revue. "Nobody's ever really heard it before, so it was nice to see the crowd's reaction," Buggs said. Buggs had been working on her song for two years and finished a couple weeks before the Revue and decided to perform it. "It's really more of a celebration and party song, as well as a song you could chill to and listen to in the car," Buggs said.

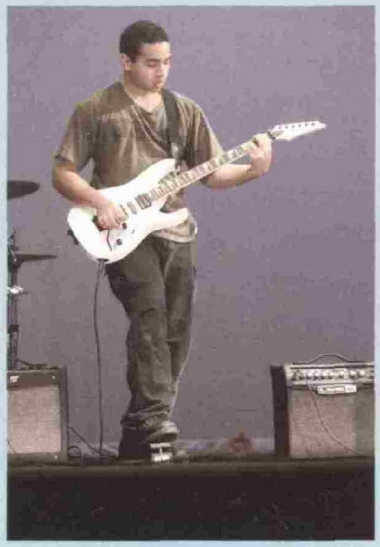
Reciting her original poem, "Skyline Love," Sophomore Brookelyn Burks expresses her feelings through her piece. "I'm not a person that would say my feelings or talk to somebody. I keep things bottled up and say it all in my poetry," Burks said. Burks also said that the poem was about her own personal experience with her father. "It means a lot to me. I put myself in a kid setting and sat down and asked myself what to write, then put it all together," Burks said.

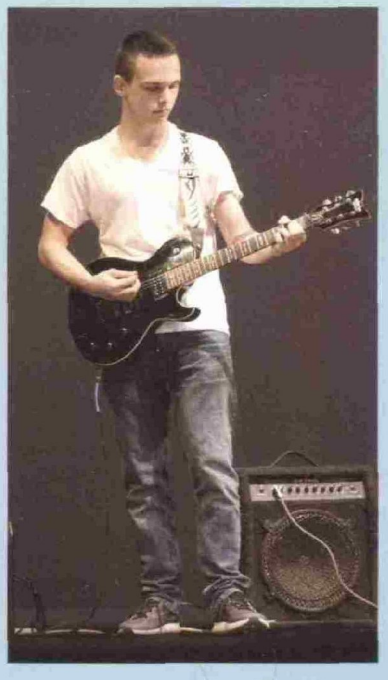
Members of the Jazz Band Freshmen Janae McFerrin, on the baritone saxophone, and Keili Cruz, on the clarinet, perform "Swinging Shepherd Blues" and "Caravan" in the Revue. "Mr. Daniels was just like, 'Oh, you have this timbre,' and I was just like, 'Oh, thanks,'" McFerrin said. McFerrin and Cruz said they had a lot of fun rehearsing and being a part of the show. "It was really fun and you got to know people better," Cruz said.



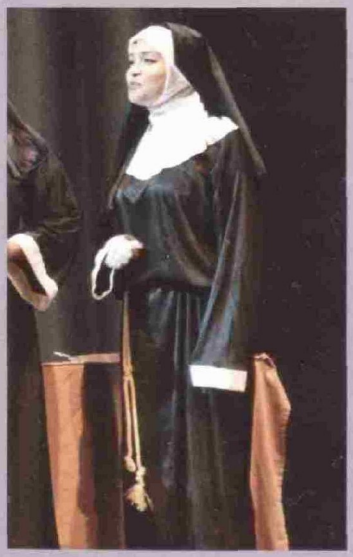
Focusing on every note, Freshman Maurice Morgan Jr., plays the piano as part of the Jazz Band. "We were being watched and performing in a talent show, so it was a little nerve racking," Morgan said. "But I think that I did a pretty good job on my own." The Jazz Band practiced Tuesday and Thursday after school every week since November.

Dancing to "Galway Girl," Junior Mia Godfrey and Senior Christopher Howard incorporate the modern dance, The Rollie, in their performance at the off-Broadway Revue. "It had a nice beat and it was a new song. Then we were like, okay, let's audition with this," Godfrey said. Howard and Godfrey choreographed the dance. "Everything from the five rehearsals we had to the actual performance was just amazing. She was a very energetic and layered person," Howard said. Howard also performed a Charlie Brown monologue and Godfrey sang and danced in two other acts. Twenty-two acts performed on April 26 in Reinhart Auditorium. Proceeds from the show benefit the annual Drama Scholarships.





The all-senior members of Children of the Korn opened the second act by performing five instrumentals. Guitarist Michael Hollowell Jr.(top) said the band formed in March, and they practice every Thursday. "I signed up for the Revue because it was a new experience," Hollowell said. Austin Griffith said they formed the band because they wanted to perform with people. "I wasn't nervous at all because I practice a lot. I practiced two to three times a week, so I felt good while performing," Griffith said. The band covered Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger," Metallica's "From Whom The Bell Tolls," Nirvana's "Smells Like Team Spirit," Guns N' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine" and Deep Purple's "Smoke On the Water."



Junior Jasmine Martinez-Santa performs in "Sister Act."

The Voice' comes to MHS

Junior Jasmine Martinez-Santa captured the hearts of the audience and hometown judges and won the local version of "The Voice" by singing "The Anthem" accompanied by her father on the keyboard.

The soprano edged out 26 contestants in the 3 phases of the contest.

"I chose a song I was comfortable with," Martinez-Santa said. "And having my dad with me was good because we perform a lot together."

Senior Tyreak Thomas organized the effort to recreate a performance competition in the spring. He and fellow coaches Juniors Emmanuel Aton and Mia Godfrey and Senior Cardalina Hernandez coached the contestants through the first two phases.

Thomas said he chose the coaches based on different musical strength they brought to the competition.

"I really wanted to show off the talent that's right here at the high school that a lot of people don't even know about," Thomas said. After the knockout round when the coaches chose the songs for the contestants, Junior Danielle LeGrand and Seniors Breonna Baggett and Alisha Mongold advanced with Martinez-Santa to the final round.

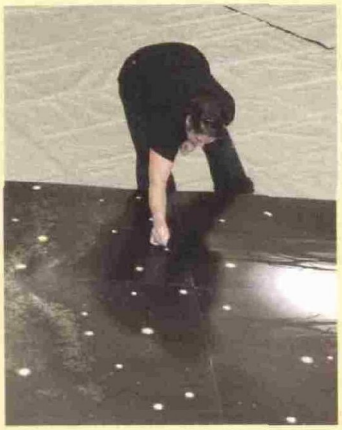
"It was hard, hard, hard because the singers were almost equally talented," Thomas said.

Assistant Principal Ms. Candace Lillie, Theatre Director Mr. Thomas Mackey and Sophomore Yancy Tyler Jr. joined Hernandez as judges in the final round.

"Sing with your heart," Martinez-Santa advised future contestants. "Don't let anything stop you from feeling the music. And don't be afraid to interact with the audience."

The walk in the park begins

Ms. Sara Stalling, Ms. Melissa Valsi and Mrs. Sarah Daniels

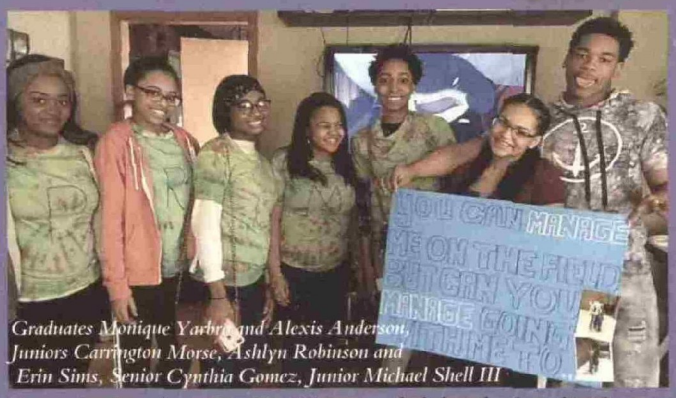


Ms. Pat Smith

During the day of Prom, Mrs. Sarah Daniels, Mrs. Melissa Valsi, Ms. Sara Stallings and Ms. Pat Smith make the theme come to life. "We gave the students three choices and they made their decision to go with 'A walk in the Park'," Mrs. Daniels said. She said that after coming up with the theme, they chose the colors. "We tried to do something different, so we looked at past decorations," Mrs. Daniels said. She said the four teachers spent about five hours setting up. Trees that they purchased on-line, once assembled turned out "horrible," so they ditched those and bought two from a local home decor outlet. "The night itself was awesome. I enjoyed seeing the finished product," Mrs. Daniels said, "and seeing the kids have a good time."

Prom-Posal

After two weeks of planning a home invasion, Junior Michael Shell III is ready to ask his girlfriend, Senior Cynthia Gomez to the Prom. Shell was accompanied by Gomez's two best friends and three other football managers. "I wanted to do something around football since she's a football manager and I'm a player," Shell said. Shell and his team walked into Cynthia's home while she was asleep on a random Thursday so the element of surprise wasn't lost.



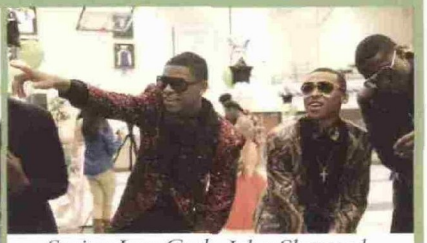
Graduates Monique Yarbrough and Alexis Anderson, Juniors Carrington Morse, Ashlyn Robinson and Erin Sims, Senior Cynthia Gomez, Junior Michael Shell III

"I was sleeping when next thing I know a whole bunch of my friends were in my living room and Michael was holding a poster," Cynthia Gomez said.

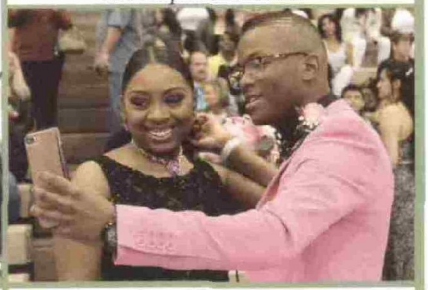
Grand March

Best foot forward

Seniors Traevon Banks and Asia Maynor

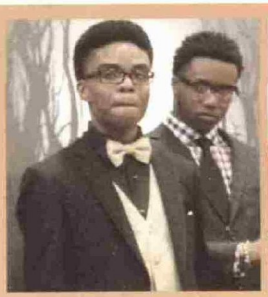


Seniors Ivan Cook, Jalen Sherwood and Laquant Williams



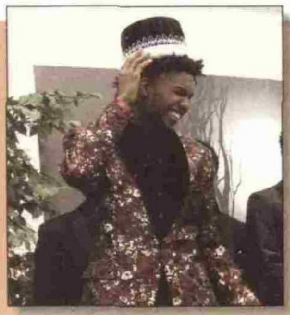
Senior Elijah Royal

Race to

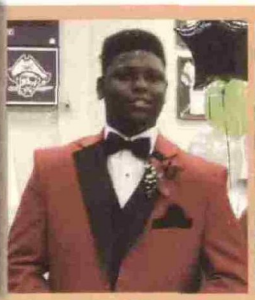


John Grace Jr.

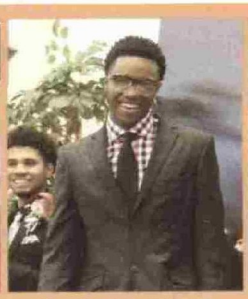
John Sawyer



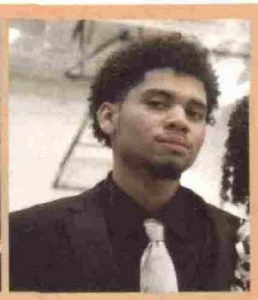
Braedan Stubbs



Brandon Dawning



Kendall Tanniehill



Cameron Figueroa

They've been crowned

Prom is a special event for all of those who are involved. From the Prom King and Queen to the sponsors, everyone has a favorite part.

"For me, Prom was special because the whole experience was really carefree and chill. It was nice to see everyone relaxed and have a good time," Junior Tatiana Peters said.

"Just the nomination was special to me," Junior Braedan Stubbs said. "I really didn't expect to win, but to be nominated was a surprise."

The sponsor, Mrs. Pat Smith, said seeing all the kids dress well shows how much it means to them.

"I think Prom is a great event and I love to see the kids dress well. It really shows how much they care about it," Mrs. Pat smith said.

One thing both the king and queen can agree on is their most memorable moment.

"My most memorable moment was the king and queen dance because it was so embarrassing," Peters said. "I thought it was going to be a slow dance but instead it was a little fast paced."

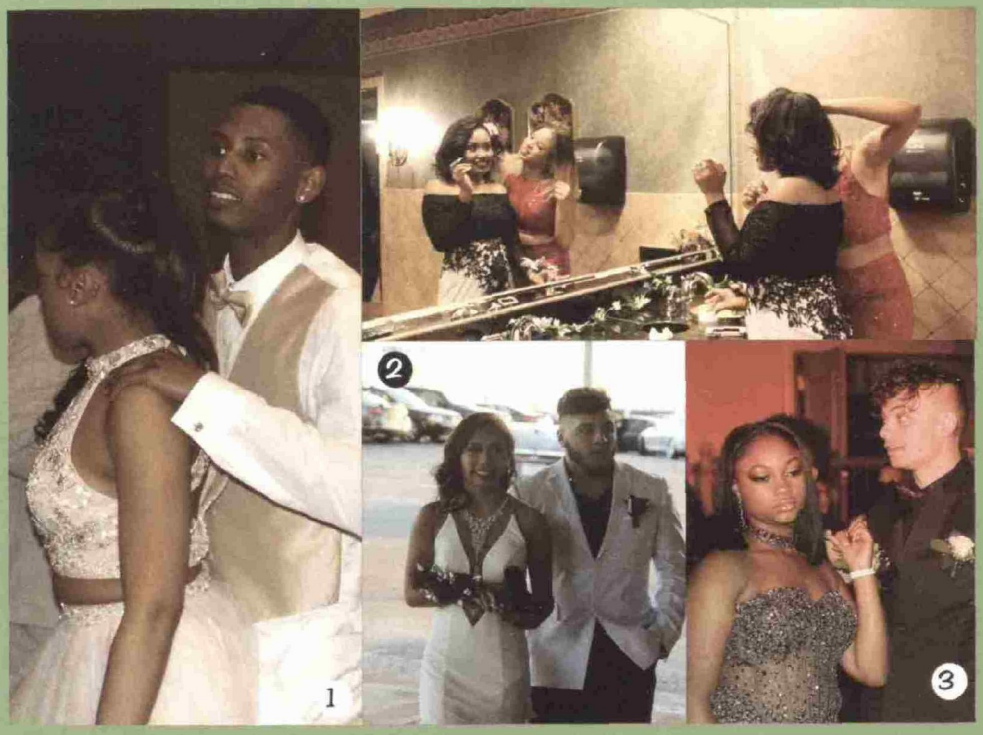
"My most memorable moment from Prom was when me and the Prom queen danced," Stubbs said. "It was pretty embarrassing. I will definitely remember that for years to come."

Q What words describe your prom expierence?

a

- Favorite memory

Dancing at the Avalon Manor



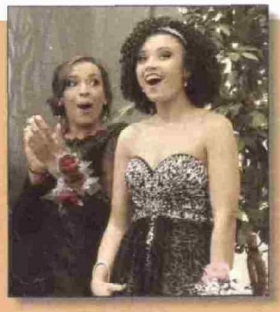
With the help of her friend, graduate Xakilah Williamson, Senior Anya Johnson fixes her hair after dancing. "It took me about four hours to get ready and I was going to get my dress custom made, but time was running short," Johnson said. However, she said that she really loved her dress that she bought online. "The music was good and the food and dancing were my favorite parts, but I left early because I had a reservation at The Signature Room in Chicago," Johnson said. In one word, Johnson would describe her experience as amazing. "This year was better because it's senior year and I only went with my boyfriend and not a group of people," Johnson said. "It's the last of the last."

1. Seniors Renajah Thomas and Elisha Robins
2. Junior Chadryne Tano and Ramon Duque Jr.
3. Sophomore Myjae Armstrong and Junior Alexander Navarro

the throne

Mia Godfrey

Kamri Smith



Tatiana Peters

Taylor Ballard

Emily Lesich

Pausing for our

best memories

During the Student Government State Conference, Senior Ciara Tyrone and fellow seminar participants sign a banner to express the connection that they have to other students in the student government family. "I love the fact that I have multiple people that I can go to when I need someone to talk to," Tyrone said. She joined 23 MHS students at the "Race to Leadership" convention in Indianapolis November 5 and 6, 2016. Students were introduced to Patrick Maurer, an award-winning motivational speaker. "Students benefit from working in large and small groups to hone their leadership skills. Students also get to see motivational speakers, enjoy activities with other high school students and gain ideas that may be possible to implement at our own school," Student Government Sponsor Mrs. Sheryl Loving said.

Student Government plans many events to involve students in school and community

In and out of school, Student Government members strive to keep student life active.

Student Government is a community service club that focuses on giving back to the community and developing leadership skills.

"As a sponsor, seeing all the students line up and take lead in delivering the cans for the Thanksgiving Food Drive made me so proud," sponsor Mrs. Sheryl Loving said, "because they showed they were maturing as individuals."

Student Government members plan many student events, including Homecoming — Spirit Week, Goofy Games and the Homecoming Dance — in the first part of the school year. Next is the Thanksgiving Food Drive, Holiday Wish List and Crush Can fundraiser for Valentine's Day.

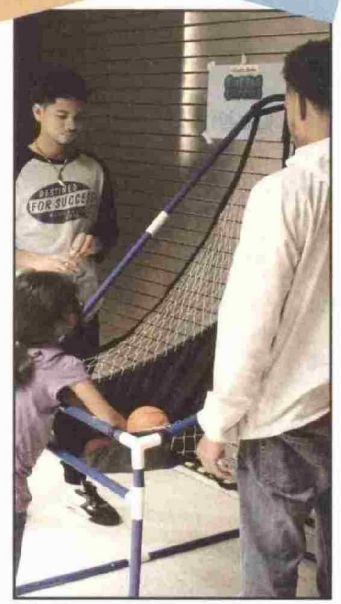
"This club is great because without a student say so, our events wouldn't be as fun," member Madison Bullock said. "Students know what will make us have a good time more than the teachers do."

Student Government

Sponsors: Mrs. Sheryl Loving and Mrs. Lisa Miller

Front row: *Mrs. Miller, Dulce Cuazitl, Maria Carbajal, Princess Graham, Paulina Lupercio, Mrs. Loving;* ***Second row:*** *Karrington Davis, Alyssia Whiteside, Ivory Jones, Alicia Frazier, Elizabeth Cuazitl;* ***Back row:*** *Kyle Klingaman, Leroy Holliday, Sharee Ramsey, Halina Duke, Alan Martinez, Justin Young.*

Law and order



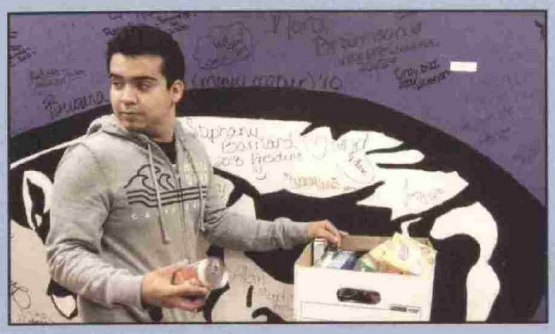
During the annual Key Club Kids' Carnival, Juniors Cameron Figueroa and Aahron Whitehead watch as a child plays at the Pop-A-Shot arcade game. "As Freshman Mentors, we coach them, help them make corrections to the mistakes on their schedules and we help with their social problems that they have," Figueroa said.

Freshman Mentors - Juniors

Sponsor: Mrs. Sarah Daniels

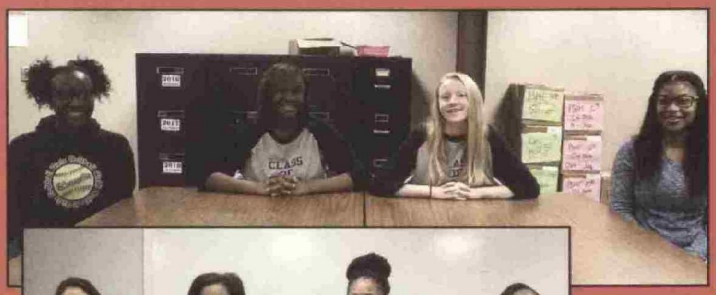
Front row: *Czaria Freeman, Jada Edwards, Kennedy Cole, Damari Ramos, Tamara Trimble, Ke'leica Junigan, Diamond Morris, Kennedy Tanniehill, Cecilia Irizarry, Meagan Wise, Viviana Lagunas, Kamri Smith, Carly Gubitz, Chadryne Tamo, Kaylin Jones;* ***Second row:*** *Mrs. Daniels, Mia Godfrey, Emily Lesich, Carrington Morse, Nicholas Cross, Tyler Russell, Aaron Vara, Marcos Hernandez, Cynthia Hindmon (Senior), Kinnedi Davis, Zaria Rock, Molly Murphy, Angel Collins, Renajah Thomas (Senior), Mrs. Carol Dahlen;* ***Back row:*** *Mercedes Williams, Cameron Figueroa, Deanna Burton, Justin Hinton, Hayden Harmon, DaVeon Coty, Kendall Tanniehill, Airika Buckley, Jada Johnson, Kayla Trotter, Abigail Diaz, Kiarra Jones, Tyler Jones (Senior).*

Unloading presents from the bus, Seniors Maria Carbajal and Alyssia Whiteside bring gifts into Jonas Salk Elementary School. "I love the Wish List because we're giving back to those kids who can't have a Christmas and making their dreams come true," Carbajal said. One of Carbajal's favorite memories of the delivery was the bus ride because there were presents in every seat and nowhere for the students to sit.



To prepare to deliver food items to Saints Peter and Paul Church, president Senior Alan Martinez packs a box for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. "It's always nice giving back to people who are so grateful for just the little things we do for them," Martinez said. Martinez also volunteered at the church to deliver the food to families. Students and staff collected a total of 1279 cans.

Class officers lead the way

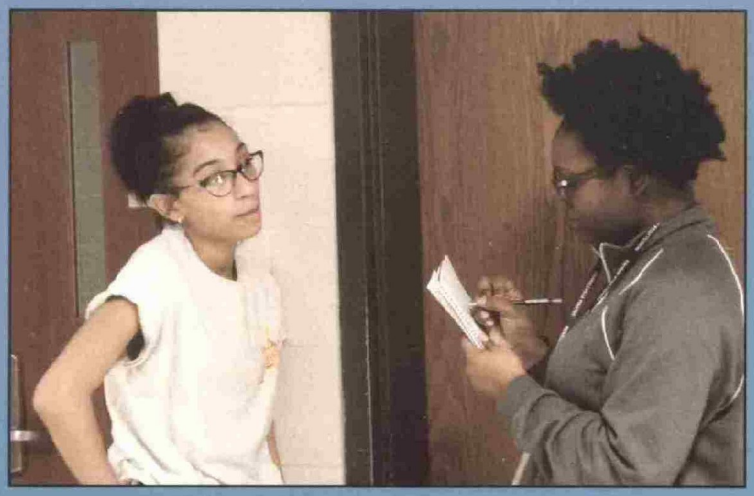


Class of 2020
Kayla Alcox, Treasurer; Mikayla Lemons, President; Brisa Sanford, Vice President; Donmeique Yates, Secretary.

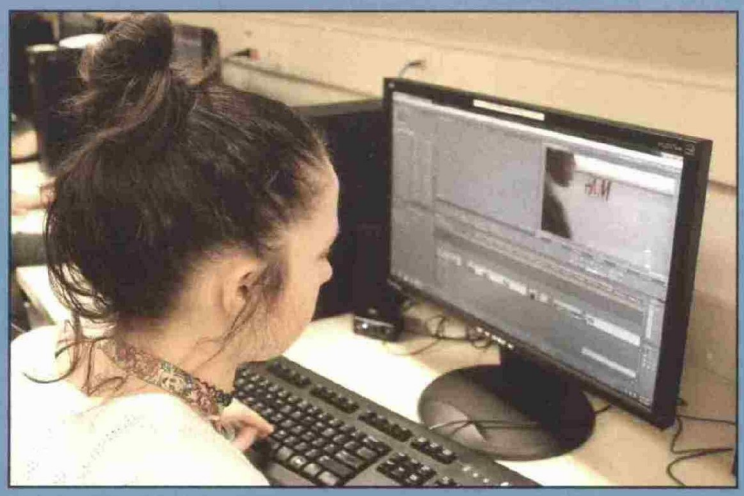
Class of 2019
Reem Sulieman, Secretary; Moriah Jones, Vice President; Najalynn Chandler, President; Imani Butts, Treasurer.

Class of 2018
Madison Bullock, Treasurer; Mik'el Mays, President; Carrington Morse, Vice President.

Freshman Mentors - Seniors
Sponsor: Mrs. Sarah Daniels
Front row: *Anya Johnson, Nikita Weaver, Michael De La Pena, David Rosa, Cynthia Gomez, Alina Garcia, Sairah Asghar, Princess Graham, Illaha Abdul, Kaylyn Campbell;* ***Second row:*** *Justin Smith, JayLynn Hardrick, Bradlee Ronning, Halina Duke, Simone Lara, Timoya Bryant, Alan Martinez, Kaja Sims, Yolanda Lewis-Kelly;* ***Back row:*** *Steffan Santiago, Joseph Harris II, Raege'ne Thomas, Andrew Vander Woude, Shelton Meyers, Markeya McDowell, Megan Mays, Isaac Graham.*



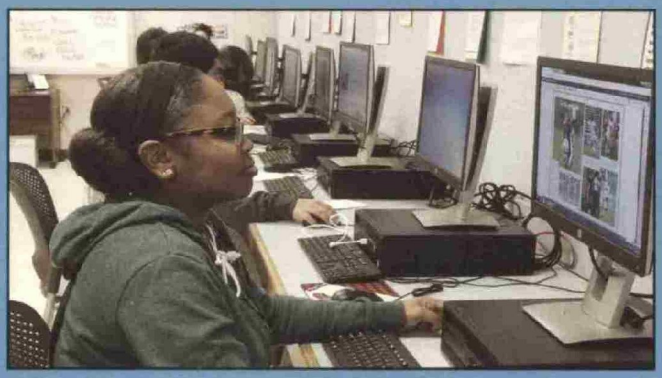
Before writing a newspaper story, Senior Najah Lewis-Singleton interviews Junior Ivelisse Taylor about the SLYCE program. "I usually come up with about 15 questions and I do research on the topic to get background information," Lewis-Singleton said. Lewis-Singleton said that she loves the responsibility that she has on the newspaper staff. "Over the years I've really started to enjoy interviewing people," Lewis-Singleton said. "Newspaper has helped me become a better writer and my essay structure has improved because of it."



Preparing for the Friday Show, Senior Kathryn Jurczyk edits her Black Friday segment. "Being able to watch my work and showcase my ideas to everyone around the school is the best part of PNN," Jurczyk said. When editing their segments, PNN reporters use Adobe Premiere Pro. Jurczyk said their deadlines are on Thursday, and they often stay after school to make sure everything is finished and perfect.

Behind the scenes

While editing the girls' soccer page, Junior Janel Roberts checks for style and photo placement. "I prefer to create the page over writing the captions because it is like you're putting on all the finishing touches," Roberts said. Roberts enrolled in yearbook for two trimesters. She said that she has enjoyed creating something for students and interacting with new people every day. Students in the yearbook class report on and photograph events throughout the school year.

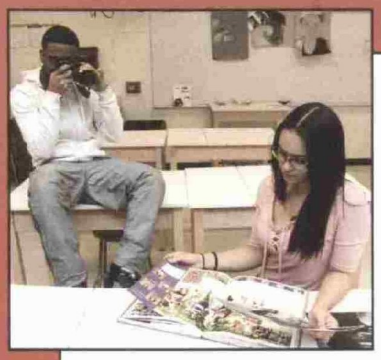


PNN

Adviser: Mr. Brian Past

Front row: *Renee Bozeman, Alicia Frazier, Azaria Richardson, Diamond Taher, Kendra Turner, Meyianna Sullivan, Meagan Wise, Imani Butts;* ***Second row:*** *Carnisa Laster, Naomi Lux, Robert Adams, Bailey Rapavi, Ronisha Woods, Breonna Baggett, Cameron Figueroa, Kathryn Jurczyk, Aaron Vara;* ***Back row:*** *Mr. Josh Harvoth, Darryl Robinson, Joey Aponte, Marco Hernandez, Christopher Howard, Tevon Lockett, Trinity Hobbs, Renajah Thomas, Andrew Keehn, Samaria Patrick, Mr. Past.*

Admiring a recent newspaper edition, Senior Raege'ne Thomas laughs at a quote. As editor, Thomas assigns stories to the reporters, assigns editors to design pages and makes sure everything is in order before it gets to newspaper adviser Mrs. Teresa Procter. "Even though there is a whole bunch of responsibility on me being the leader in the class," Thomas said,"I'm happy that I got chosen for the role and make the other reporters better." Thomas said the newspaper class is the perfect way to further her education in journalism.



As he practices his photography skills, Senior Diontae Phillips captures Senior Cynthia Gomez reviewing last year's yearbook. "I like my role as a co-editor because I get to watch people progress every day," Phillips said. Gomez and Phillips assign stories, captions and page design to reporters in the yearbook class. "Sometimes being a co-editor can be stressful because Diontae and I are expected to know all the answers, and we don't all the time," Gomez said, "but being able to go to my favorite co-editor and put everyone's ideas together and create a great book is the best feeling ever." Both editors said they enjoy looking at the end results, knowing they helped create a book of memories for the students.

Media jobs

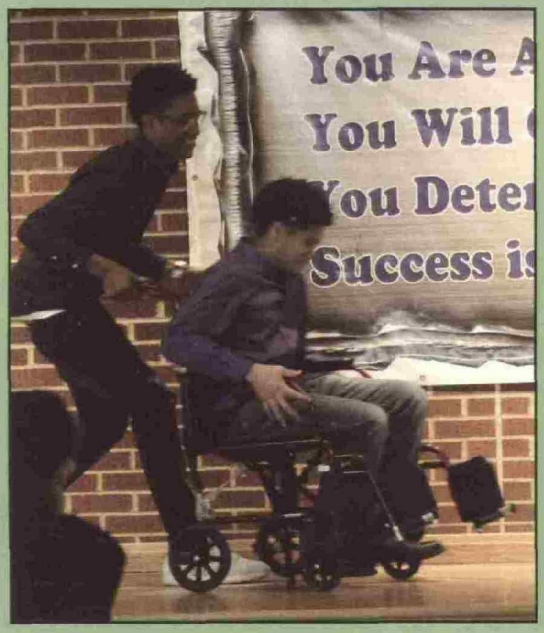
While he films his classmate's music video, Senior Christopher Howard listens to Senior Renajah Thomas sing. Even though Howard joined beginners PNN his freshman year and Thomas joined her sophomore year, PNN teacher Mr. Brian Past named them both leaders in the class. "I already talk a lot and I'm creative," Thomas said, "so this class just seemed super fun to take." Thomas said PNN let her broaden her mind and look at things more openly as she furthers her education in physical therapy. Howard has been in charge of putting together three of the opening theme segments. "PNN has helped me explore and never give up," Howard said, "and it showed me how easy it is to be yourself in front of a camera." Howard has always wanted to go into cinematography to eventually be a movie director.

Newspaper
Adviser: Mrs. Teresa Procter
Front row: *Ashlyn Robinson, Carly Gubitz, Elijah Camargo;* ***Second row:*** *Max Govert, Bri'Yanna Pearson, Najah Lewis-Singleton, Carissa Lewis;* ***Back row:*** *Joenathan Smith, Raege'ne Thomas, Andrew Vander Woude, Bryan Fields.*

National Honor Society
Sponsors: Ms. Erin Flores and Mrs. Melissa Sickinger
Front row: *D'Vonne Porter, Taylor Upshaw, Alonna Traylor, Sairah Asghar, Kavitha Udumula, Morgan Brinker, Kathleen Aton;* ***Second row:*** *Dontrease Hazelett, Alan Martinez, Cherise' Higgins, Alisha Mongold, David Rosa, Kayla Johnson-Owens, Rachel Rodriguez;* ***Third row:*** *Steffan Santiago, Dakota Sampson, Marcus Miller, Osan Gordon, Maxwell Moore, Joel Schwartz, Fabienne Laurisch, Diontae Phillips.*

STANDing together

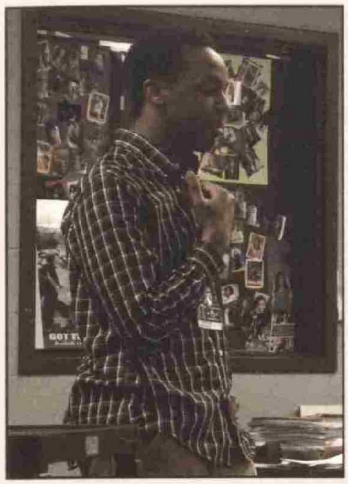
Exchanging laughs with one another, Juniors Xavier Smith and Jerek Boclair wait for their turns to perform their ableism skits at the Martin Luther King Day Brunch. "This is my first year in STAND," Smith said. "I really like being in STAND because you get to make new friends." STAND is an acronym for Socially Together and Naturally Diverse, and club members create programs that address discrimination and injustice. "STAND is all about positivity," Junior Cameron Figueroa said.



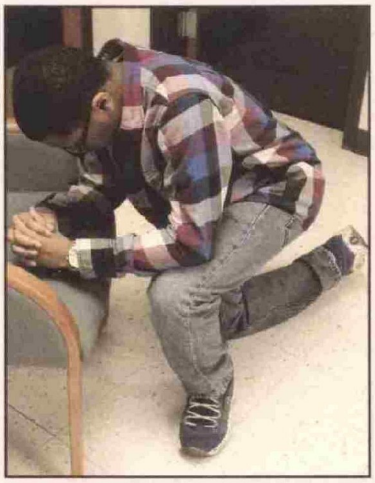
Without using any dialogue, Juniors Xavier Smith and Cameron Figueroa act out a skit about ableism. "It took about a week or two to prepare. What I liked about the skit the most was being involved," Smith said. "The skit was to show that just because someone doesn't have working legs or arms doesn't make that person a quitter or different from anyone else," Figueroa said.

As the students end their closing skits, they take a final bow for the audience. The Martin Luther King Day Brunch was held in the freshman cafeteria, where students performed for the Clifford Pierce Middle School STAND members.

Socially Together and Naturally Diverse
Sponsor: Ms. Neerja Prasad
Front row: *Edward Quintero, Tatiana Peters, Carly Gubitz, Zaria Rock, Halina Duke, Monique Guydon;* ***Second row:*** *Kamri Smith, Sadia Hildebrand, Karrington Davis, Te'Reyah Gaines;* ***Third row:*** *Alicia Frazier, Alyssia Williams, Deverieux Coleman, Ti'Mair McMullan, Alyssia Whiteside, Tatyanah Cross, Justin Hinton;* ***Fourth row:*** *Anya Johnson, Olivia Taylor, Cameron Figueroa, Justin Smith, Reiana Thomas, Kayla Alcox;* ***Back row:*** *Mrs. Van Drunen, Alana Winters, Alan Martinez, Steffan Santiago, Jesse McCoy III, Brookelyn Burks, Jovan Johnson Jr., Ms. Prasad.*



Talking to the group, Senior Marcus Miller tells Bible Club that they have nothing to fear, because they all have the power to get through anything. "I was kind of scared to join Bible Club, but after a while it felt like it was something that I had to do," Miller said. "I love being able to help people." Miller has been in Bible Club since his middle school days, and said that the club at the high school is more involved. Bible Club met every Thursday morning and had an after school meeting once a month and were working on getting more clubs together outside of school.



As a Christian, Senior Kyle Davis goes through his daily routine by starting off with prayer and thanking God for everything He has done for him. "I have to remain humble and give praises because the same person who gives me everything is the same person who can take it away," Davis said. "I can do all things through Christ that strengths me."

Bible Club
Sponsor: Mr. Dan Moslander
Front row: *Scarlett Smith, Cherise' Higgins, Jordan Munchenburg;* ***Second row:*** *Marcus Miller, Maxwell Moore, Devyn Williams.*

Students Against Destructive Decisions
Sponsor: Ms. Katelyn Holsclaw
Front row: *Imani Bowen, Sanaia Collier;* ***Second row:*** *Ms. Holsclaw, Cynthia Hindmon, Haylee Rangel;* ***Back row:*** *Aaliyah Stewart, Yancy Tyler, Taylashe, Ferguson.*

Educators Rising
Sponsor: Ms. Pat Smith
Front row: *Princess Graham, Elizabeth Croy, Elizabeth Cuazitl;* ***Back row:*** *Mrs. Smith, Alicia Frazier, Jordan Munchenburg, Olivia Taylor.* ***Not pictured:*** *Najah Lewis-Singleton, Antonio Brooks.*

Society of Student Authors
Sponsor: Mrs. Melissa Sickinger
Christopher Howard, Morgan Brinker, Jahnari Pruitt.

Top readers enjoy books of all kinds

Freshman Maja Pejovski

After finishing her favorite book series, Harry Potter, once more, **Freshman Maja Pejovski** says she doesn't know what to read next.

"I could read the entire library. I'm not picky when it comes to books," Pejovski said.

Even with a steady lead over the rest of the freshman class, Pejovski says she isn't concerned about the points.

"I read for fun and the points are just a nice reward," Pejovski said.

Sophomore Gabrelle Lobins

Sophomore Gabrelle Lobins says her favorite book is the first Harry Potter book.

She's not alone. More than 500 million copies of the book have been sold worldwide.

Lobins, who is the 10th grade's top reader, has amassed 399 points. Her goal is to read 40 to 50 books this school year.

She said reading helps with school and calms her when she faces problems.

"I don't pay attention to the genre," Lobins said, "I just like fiction."

Junior Caleb Hiller

Power and violence are central themes of Game of Thrones, and **Junior Caleb Hiller** says he couldn't like it any better.

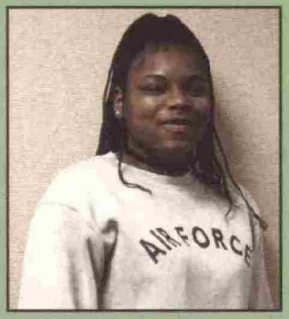
"The violence in it is one of the main things that are interesting to me," Hiller said.

With a point total of 344, Hiller is the leading reader for the juniors. Hiller said he enjoys fantasy because of how unique it is.

"It's different compared to other genres," Hiller said.

Reading all the Rosie Readers by the end of the school year is a goal for **Senior D'Vonne Porter.**

She will need to read 25 books.



Senior D'Vonne Porter

That should not be a problem for Porter, the top reader of her senior class, who accumulated over 400 points.

Her favorite book is "Faking Normal," popular among young adults.

Porter said she loves to read mysteries.

"It puts me in a good place," Porter said, "It's a distraction."

Confidence, poise enable Pruitt

From legendary poets like William Shakespeare and Walt Whitman to more recent writing geniuses like Langston Hughes and Robert Frost, Merrillville's own rising star Senior Jahnari Pruitt attended Louder than a Bomb's Apprenticeship program (LTAB).

"They invite 30 kids from the thousands that participate in the competition and from those 30, they chose 12 and I was one of them," Pruitt said.

Senior Jahnari Pruitt

LTAB is an annual youth poetry slam in Chicago. Its mission is to dedicate time and effort so young people from urban areas have a safe environment to deliver their stories.

Pruitt received six weeks of intensive poetry writing and mentorship from the Bomb Squad Apprenticeship.

Being selected for LTAB was a surprise for Pruitt, but not for her coach Mr. Dave Hossler.

"Her poems have a lot of originality and she has a big heart, which often comes out in her poems," Mr. Hossler said.

Pruitt started her poetry career in her freshman year when she made the varsity team.

As she presents her poem, "Thot Page," Freshman Jillian Skokal gestures to the audience. The poem declares that girls should not change their body image to attract boys. Permanent Ink poets write and perform original poems and raps.

Permanent Ink

Sponsors: Mr. Dave Hossler and Mr. Paul Trembacki

Front row: *Brookelyn Burks, Ja'Leah Walker, Aleecia Niezgoda, Rebecca Suluska;* ***Second row:*** *Alysa Adams, Erica Walton, Jillian Skokal, Darius Schultz;* ***Back row:*** *Mr. Trembacki, Kaila Buggs, Jahnari Pruitt, Mr. Hossler.*

to advance in poetry slam

"It was a lot to live up to as a freshman," Pruitt said. "They were just so good and there were mostly seniors on the team. I had to play catchup."

Pruitt said she always remained calm and composed, even on the bright stage of Louder Than A Bomb.

"I've always been a performer, starting with band and theatre, so I never worry about being nervous," Pruitt said.

"She's a really great performer and has a lot of confidence and is what you call a poised performer," Mr. Hossler said. "From her very first audition, I realized she had the potential to be a great poet."

To go with her performance, Mr. Hossler credits her kindness.

"I'd go back to her compassion as she often writes about people that are often picked on in society or who are beaten down in some way," Mr. Hossler said.

As a senior, Pruitt said she understands she should be a veteran presence to younger writers.

"I want to give kids an opportunity to participate in something like LTAB if they couldn't," Pruitt said.

Pruitt plans to major in English, become a high school English teacher and start another program like LTAB in the region.

"Performance poetry might seem a bit scary and might seem hard to do, but it's really about just going up there and telling your story," she said. "It's welcoming with a family bond on the team and we come over to my house all the time and we hang out. "It's just a good experience, so everyone should come out."

A three-year member of Permanent Ink, Senior Aleecia Niezgoda performs "Labels," a poem that sheds light on stereotypes based on looks. Niezgoda was part of the team that took first place in the Slamming the Sun Down poetry slam.

Gay Straight Alliance
Sponsor: Ms. Katelyn Holsclaw
***Front row:** Heaven Allen, Iris Galvan, Cynthia Hindmon, Heather Herrera;* ***Second row:** Haylee Rangel, Jada Wingate, Carly Sheets, Lakadia Merritte, Ariana Booker;* ***Third row:** Brookelyn Burks, Erryonne Watts, Jennifer Baray, Melanie Bunkley, Sanaia Collier, Peyton Rose;* ***Back row:** Joshua Raddatz, Yancy Tyler, Chyelle Baylor, Tyreak Thomas, Oscar Gomez, Isis Davis.*

Seeing life in a different light

When Senior Tyreak Thomas flashes back to last year, he remembers a meeting with students, parents and ministers from the community.

"We had all kinds of ministers and pastors talking about the Bible and homosexuality," Thomas recalled. "It was actually a really great turnout and a lot of information was shared. I think it helped a lot of students, parents and even teachers see life in a different light."

Sophomore Melanie Bunkley

There were plans to have another.

That's the kind of impact the Gay-Straight Alliance is having among students.

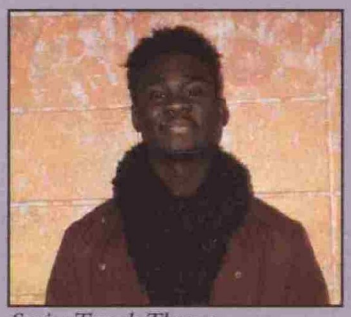
Sophomore Melanie Bunkley acknowledged that students sometimes have difficulty "coming out to your family," and GSA makes it easier identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

"I joined it mostly because it's a different kind of club," Bunkley said. "This club is about accepting your sexuality and no other club has that."

"If there's anything you feel strongly about, like being LGBT," Thomas said, "you should voice it and embrace it. Be comfortable with yourself because there are people who have been in the same situation before who can help you."

The GSA mission as a racial and gender justice organization is to empower young leaders to advocate for a safe and healthy school climate. During weekly meetings, GSA promotes activities and events that help protect students from harassment, violence and oppression.

"The best part," Thomas said, "is to see everything unfold, getting things done, going on field trips and being able to help out the LGBT community. Working with Ms. (Katelyn) Holsclaw and both of the interns who I've gotten really close with has been fun."



Senior Tyreak Thomas

GSA sponsor Ms. Holsclaw said that Thomas, in his first year as GSA president, is already making a difference.

"He was already making an impact as VP last year and this year he's been amazing," Ms. Holsclaw said.

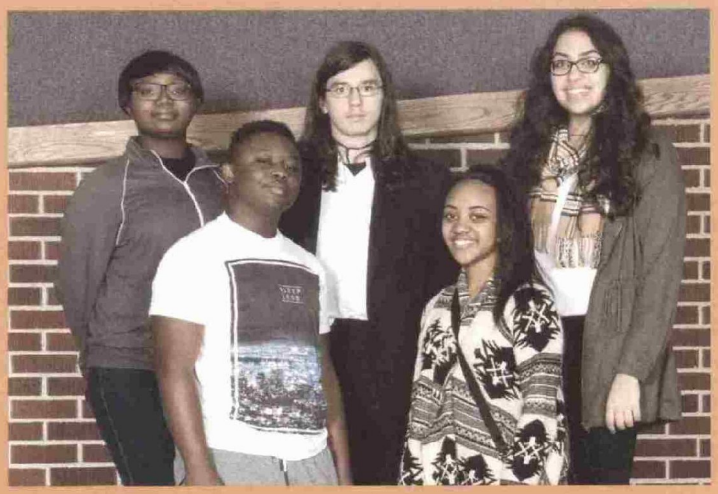
As president of GSA, Thomas makes sure all the events run smoothly. Thomas also runs cross country, serves as president of the Thespian Troupe and completes community service for Voices of Reason.

"It's definitely difficult to be president of two clubs because there is a lot of responsibility involved to make sure each club has my full attention," Thomas said. "It does get difficult making events and planning them around each other, but I think I'm pretty good at multi-tasking."

Bunkley said GSA can help students as she has been helped when she first came out.

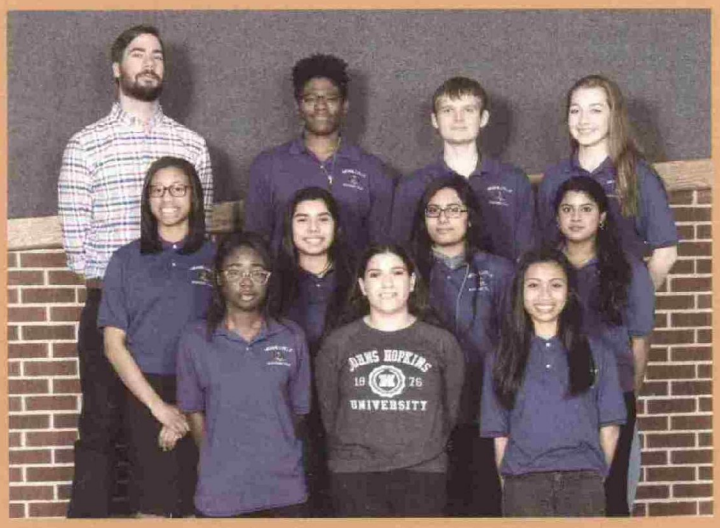
"It's been fine, but when you first come out, it is kind of hard because people couldn't accept it," Bunkley said. "But there's GSA and more people in school can accept those facts."

Bunkley's advice: "I would say to talk to your peers and friends if it's hard coming out to your family. Try and talk to someone who has been there before."



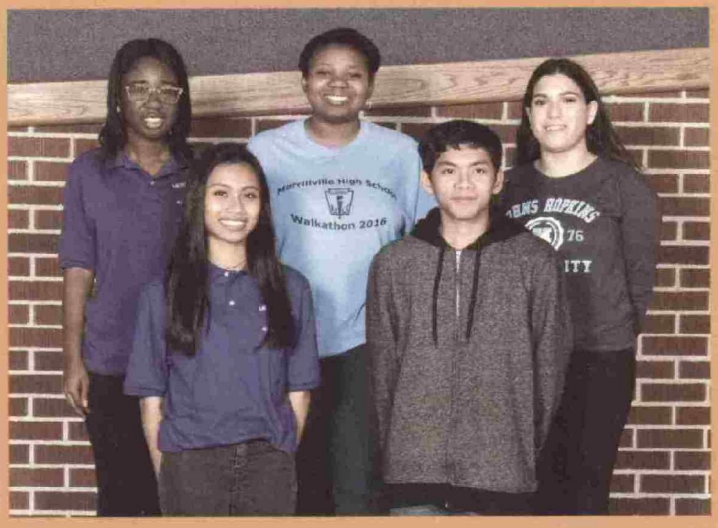
Academic Decathlon

Coaches: Mr. Jason Sonnenberg and Mrs. Rachel Sonnenberg
Front row: *Arshawn Wynn, Imani Butts;* ***Back row:*** *Najah Lewis-Singleton, Robert Hasan, Reem Sulieman.*



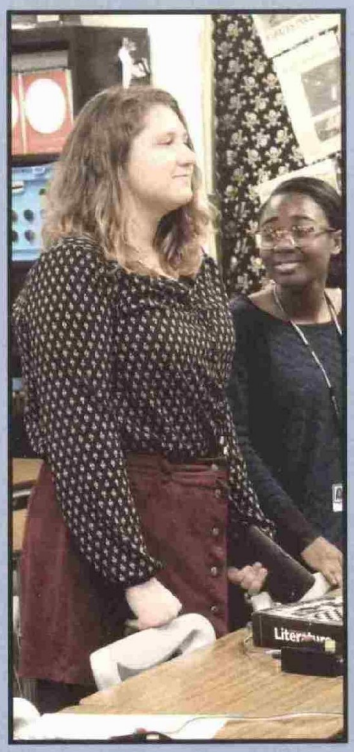
Academic Super Bowl

Coaches: Mr. Paul Unterfranz and Ms. Debbie Monix
Front row: *Morgan Brinker, Carly Gubitz, Maria Tan;* ***Second row:*** *Janaye Thomas, Natalia Gonzales, Sairah Asghar, Kavitha Udumula;* ***Back row:*** *Mr. Unterfranz, Christopher Howard, Joel Schwartz, Olivia Stevens.*



Spell Bowl

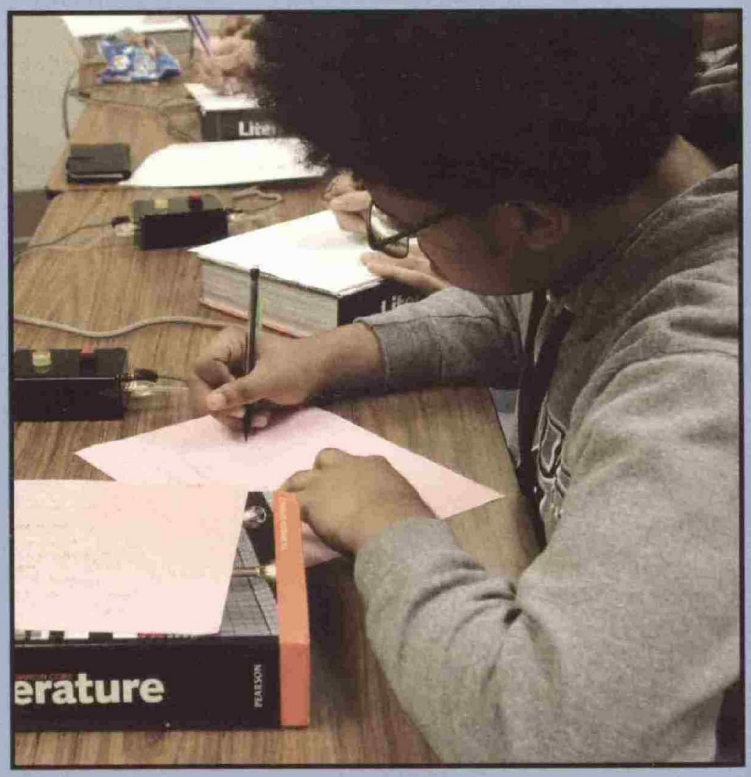
Coach: Ms. Debbie Monix
Front row: *Maria Tan, Jansen Tan;* ***Back row:*** *Morgan Brinker, Kayla Johnson-Owens, Carly Gubitz.*



With fellow team member Senior Morgan Brinker at her side, Senior Alisha Mongold practices for the upcoming competition for the Quiz Bowl team. Team members try to answer the question and be the first one to score the point for their team. "It's fun and interesting to get to know new people when we go to other schools. It's like being on a casual game show," Mongold said.

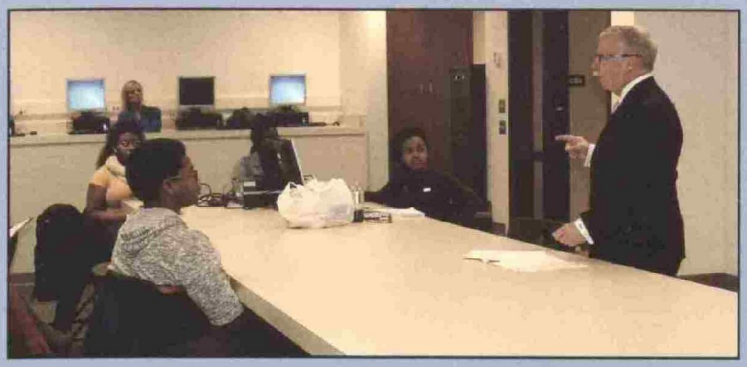
Mock Trial
1. Junior Deanna Burton
Q: What's the hardest part about preparing for Mock Trial competition?
A: It's really hard concentrating when reading the trials and really understanding what I'm reading.

2. Mrs. Alison Skertic, Coach
Q: What skills or qualifications do you need for Mock Trail?
A: You must be hard working, quick thinking and able to speak in public.

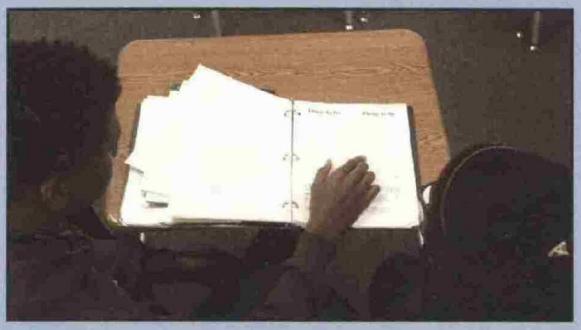


In his first year of Quiz Bowl, Senior Jakobe Edmond looks at the confusing algebra problem and thinks about what steps he should take next. "I joined Quiz Bowl because a lot of my friends are doing it and I heard it was fun, so I decided to try it," Edmond said.

Go to court



To help prepare the Mock Trial Team for their court date, Lake County attorney Michael Bosch talks about court strategies. Sophomore Jaden Wright, Junior Deanna Burton, Sophomore Nialah Clay and Co-captain Sophomore Imani Butts listen to his advice. "Mock Trial is lawyer competition where students make teams and act like professional lawyers in court. Students who are interested in having a career as a lawyer and criminal justice should be in Mock Trial," Butts said.



Practicing for the Mock Trial competition, Sophomores Joenathan Smith and Nialah Clay review their "Things to do" list from Coach Alison Skertic.

Debaters research topics, argue their positions

After rigorous research and extensive essays have been completed, students are one step closer to arguing their topics in a nerve-wracking debate against another school.

Students spend long hours researching topics given to them by the National Forensics League. They have to argue in a "for or against" format, but they are not allowed to pick which side they argue.

"It's hard for a lot of students to argue anything they are emotionally attached to," Debate coach Mr. Alan Mizimakoski said.

Students say that being in debate teaches them how to support their opinion and beliefs while understanding the opposing side.

Debate is a club, but students can also enroll in the class one trimester. Seven students were involved in Debate this year.

"Since I want to go into politics, Debate allowed me to see a lot of topics and issues and how I should argue them correctly," exchange student Senior Alexandru Murzac said.

Various schools sponsor debates and invite teams to participate. Students met Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to prepare.

Sophomore Kelli Thomas placed eighth and fifth in Congress at two tournaments.

"The hardest thing about debate is researching the topics and making sure all your information is correct," Thomas said.

This year Merrillville's Debate Team attended three different competitive debates.

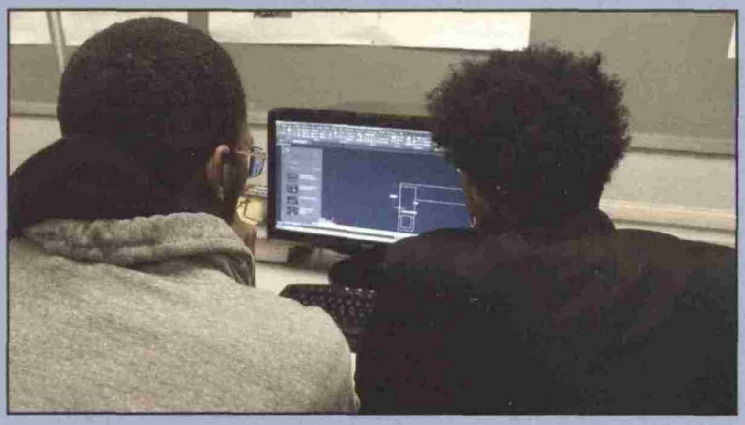
"Some highlights from this year would have to be Kelli Thomas placing in Congress at numerous tournaments, working with Moldovan exchange student Alexandru and just working with all the students from the team," Mr. Mizimakoski said.

Debate
Coaches: Mr. Alan Mizimakoski and Ms. Samantha St. Aubin
Ms. St. Aubin, Kelli Thomas, Kaylah Johnson, Mr. Mizimakoski.

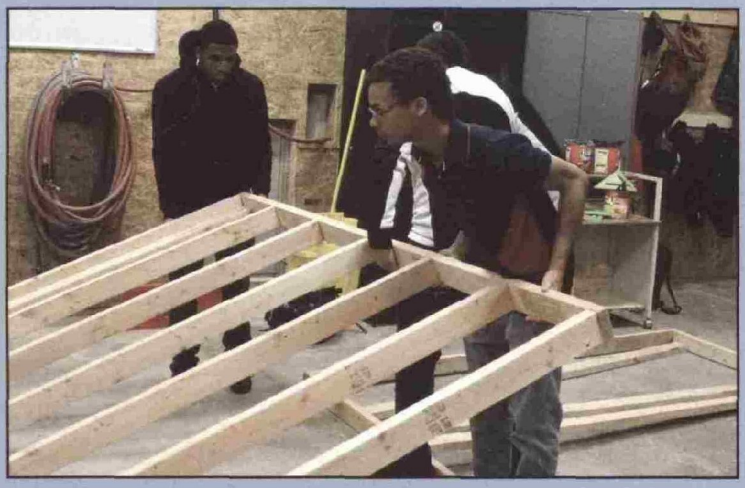
Mock Trial
Coach: Mrs. Alison Skertic
***Front row:** Deverieux Coleman, Victoria Rivera, Imani Butts; Second row: Jaden Lewis, Jacqueline Lewis, Ariel Riley, Mrs. Skertic; **Back row:** Azariah Avery, Joenathan Smith, Danielle LeGrand, Brookelyn Burks. **Not Pictured:** Nialah Clay, Deanna Burton.*

Quiz Bowl
Coach: Mrs. Melissa Sickinger
***Front row:** Morgan Brinker, Mya Wilson, Alisha Mongold, Kayla Johnson-Owens; **Back row:** Maxwell Stevens, Olivia Stevens, Joel Schwartz, Christopher Howard, Jahnari Pruitt.*

Pursuing careers in high school



Working together in Mr. Steve Prather's Principles of Engineering class, Seniors Nehemiah Moore and Elijah McLean finish their project. "He wanted us to get used to 3-D drawing, so we were making shapes from the book," McLean said. Moore said he wishes to pursue a career in electrical engineering with the skills he learned from the class. "It is hard, but although difficult, it is extremely useful," Moore said.



In Mr. Dane Glass's Construction Trades class, Seniors Donnovan Blue and Jason Howell pick up the final wall of Howell's project. "The best thing about this class is that I get to build new things and look at the end result of something I can actually say is mine," Howell said. Howell said he loves to build things and work with his hands. Eventually, he wants to be a carpenter.

Mr. Teeter retires after 46 years

Mr. Dave Teeter teaches his students how to weed.

After 46 years of teaching, Graphic Arts teacher Mr. Dave Teeter decided to retire at the end of the school year.

"I used to be the auto shop teacher back in 1970. It (the auto shop room) looked different than how it looks right now, and it was actually closed and used as a storage room," Mr. Teeter said.

Although most students primarily know Mr. Teeter as the Graphic Arts teacher, teaching isn't the only occupation that Mr. Teeter has had in his lifetime.

"Right out of college, I worked as a painter at the mill. I also used to work on cars in high school and actually coached football here for four years."

After Mr. Teeter retires, assistant football coach Mr. Kenny Smith will be taking over the Graphic Arts courses.

"Next year, I am most excited for adding my originality and creativity to the Graphic Arts courses," Mr. Smith said. "This is only my second year of teaching, and it's honestly fun at times. It's a good feeling to see a difference in all the kids' lives."

While practicing the shielded metal arc welding technique, Senior Michael Williams works in his Welding Technology class. "This class is a great way to prepare for my future in this trade," Williams said. Williams plans to go into the welding field because he believes that welding is a growing work industry and it's very fun to do.

Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council

Sponsor: Ms. Janis Qualizza

Front row: *Meagan Wise, Kiyah Walker, Ebonie Ali, Kaylin Jones, Reannah Soto, Cheyenne Roberts;* ***Second row:*** *Taylor Ballard, Jennifer Villanueva, Martin Cruz, Michael De La Peña, Alexus Shirrells, De'Jah Jones, Madison Bullock;* ***Third row:*** *Emily DeCausemaker, Cryst'n Morgan, Makayla Pearson, Emily Lesich, Kiarra Thompson, Marcos Hernandez, Kathryn Jurczyk, Gabriel Ochoa;* ***Back row:*** *Sven Strom, Darius Kendall, Marcus Miller, Cameron Wilbon, Joseph Harris II, Anthony Sams, Justus Alexander, Alfred Stubbs.*

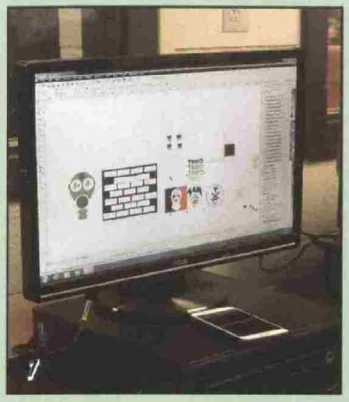
Chess Club

Sponsor: Mr. Sean Meagher

Front row: *Brandynn Reed, Marcus Miller;* ***Back row:*** *James Green, Coach Meagher, Hailey Karpen.*

As easy as 1,2,3

by Senior Nehemiah Nunnery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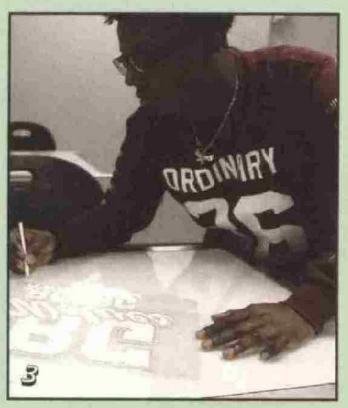
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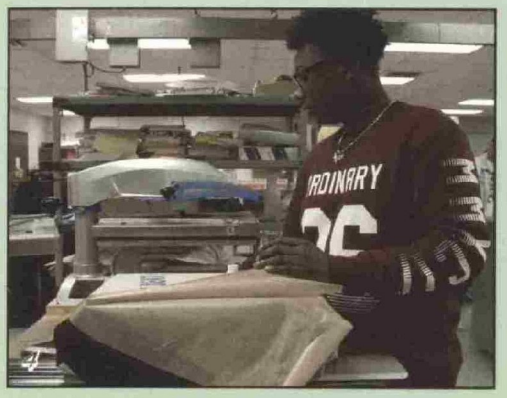
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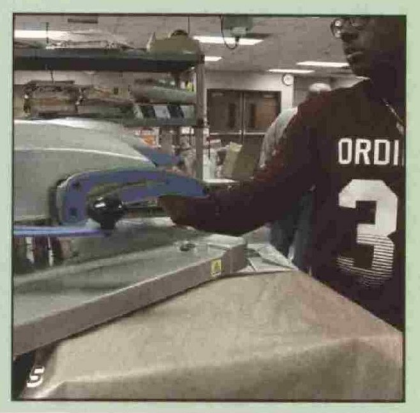
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Steps

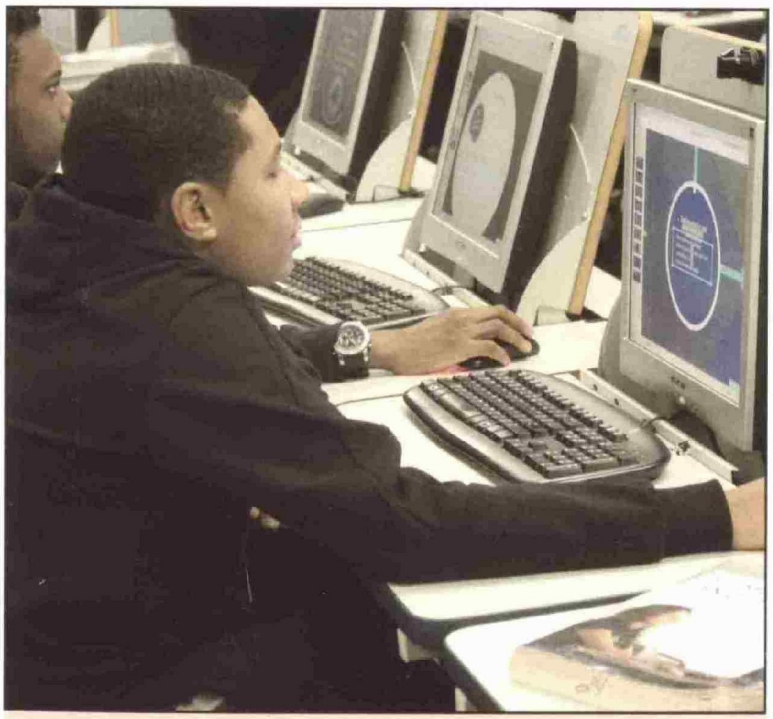
1. Find or create a design.
2. Cut the design into the vinyl.
3. Weed the design using an X-Acto knife.
4. Fit the shirt onto the pallet of the heat press.
5. Print shirt and remove from pallet.

Terms

Vinyl - synthetic resin or plastic consisting of polyvinyl chloride or a related polymer

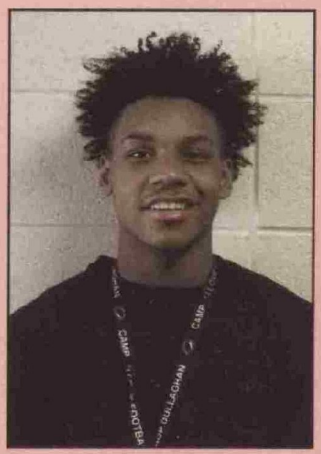
Weed - remove an inferior or unwanted component of a design

Heat Press - a device on which paper or cloth is pressed between glazed boards and hot metal plates in order to produce a smooth or glossy surface



Building a Prezi on the five building blocks of web design, Sophomore Armand Morris works in Mr. Andrew Niksich's Web Design class. "I like the class because it brings challenges, but they aren't too difficult," Morris said. To build a website, students also use Notepad. Building a site takes from one to two days, depending on how fast the designer works.

Guerrero uses Web Design class to market himself



Sophomore Marc Guerrero

Sophomore Marc Guerrero decided to make his recruiting web page because he was starting varsity football this year.

His cousin, a former Web Design student, Bryson Draper, convinced Guerrero to enroll in this class.

"The teacher is really cool and hilarious," Draper told his cousin.

In class, Guerrero created coding and web pages for grades.

Students also learn how to code HTML and CSS.

Web Design teacher Mr. Andrew Niksich said his goal is for his students to appreciate the internet.

Mr. Niksich's Web Design class created a website for the Pink Ribbon Society, an organization that helps promote breast cancer awareness.

"Technology is used in many career choices now," Mr. Niksich said.

Math presents new challenges

"Students don't like change."

Those are the words of integrated math teacher Ms. Rachel Rockey.

Merrillville High School has adopted integrated math which incorporates algebra, geometry, trigonometry and analysis into each math class.

Teachers said they approved the change in curriculum because integrated math better prepares students for standardized tests and SATs. The students now know what to expect when they take the tests.

"It reflects what is on the new I-STEP, SAT and PSAT," math teacher Mrs. Kira Healy said. "We did not want students going a whole year without algebra and geometry, so we combined them together."

The Math Department offers three integrated math classes, pre-calculus, calculus, finite math, business math and probability and statistics. All are based on the Indiana standards for math.

Integrated math classes are common in many other countries. They teach students how to bridge connections between math topics, something seldom attempted in the long-held staple of math classes, including algebra and geometry.

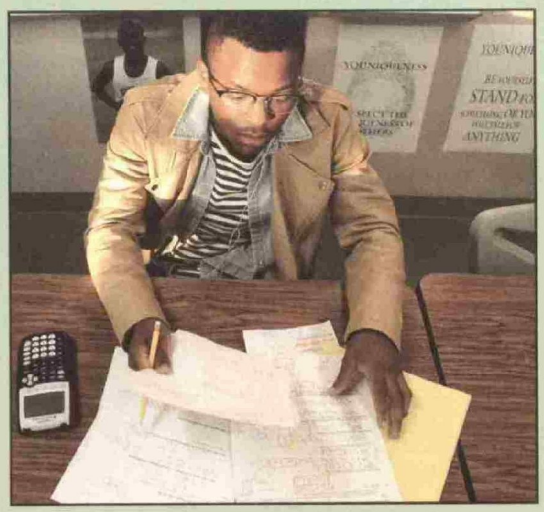
"We didn't realize what they (the students) missed out on," math teacher Mrs. Gail Nicolini said.

Many teachers reported having a difficult time with the switch to integrated math because they did not have enough time to learn the new material and prepare for the classes.

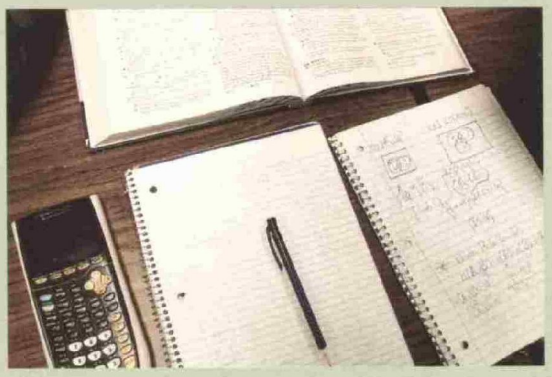
"We prepared lessons within lessons to fill in the gaps to make the classes easier for the students," Mrs. Nicolini said.

Integrated math teaches the same lessons that students learned before. The difference is the order in which the lesson are taught.

"Our freshman and sophomore students seem to be adapting fairly well. Those juniors and seniors that had spent most of their high school careers on the traditional Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 track are having a harder time transitioning," Mrs. Healy said. "Some of those juniors and seniors are having success completing the traditional Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 curriculum online using the Alex computer based curriculum instead."



To get a better grade, Senior Elijah Royal goes to Mr. Mike Hoffman's pre-calculus classroom every morning for extra help. "I go to tutoring Monday through Thursday, and even if I don't meet my goal, I keep pushing," Royal said. In Finite Math class, students use calculators to locate solutions and approximate probability. Ranging from everyday life situations to scientific equations, students solve an array of problems in math class.



Science Olympiad

Sponsors: Ms. Ronda Waters and Mr. Gary Schlinger

***Front row:** Jaia Montgomery, Reem Sulieman, Robert Hasan; **Back row:** Ms. Waters, Dakota Sampson, Marcus Miller, Hailey Karpen, Mr. Schlinger.*

JETS

Sponsors: Mr. Gary Schlinger and Ms. Ronda Waters

***Front row:** Jaia Montgomery, Marcus Miller; **Back row:** Ms. Waters, Dakota Sampson, Mr. Schlinger.*

Science, technology come together in Olympiad

As she looks over the Science Olympiad schedule at the Whiting Invitational, Senior Jaia Montgomery writes down the time assignments on a white board for everyone to see. "This competition was overall a good outcome. I got to meet many different schools and I got to see what we placed for each event," Montgomery said. Junior Jasmine Collins, Sophomore Hailey Karpen, Freshman Jason Thompson, Freshman Robert Hasan and Junior Sarah Thormann join her at the table. The Whiting Invitational allowed teams to practice for the regional competition, where each member earned one medal. Sulieman and Hasan earned a fifth place medal in anatomy and physiology; Senior Marcus Miller earned fourth place for electric vehicle; Montgomery and Senior Dakota Sampson earned fifth place medals for experimental design; Collins and Sampson earned fourth place medals for optics; Miller earned third in robot arm; Montgomery and Miller earned second place in rocks and minerals.

"I like when the kids have fun and feel accomplished when they are able to bring back a medal or trophy. They are technically doing college level science so it can be difficult. The competition includes engineering, biology and other programs."
Science Olympiad Coach
Mrs. Ronda Waters

Quill & Scroll
Sponsor: Mrs. Teresa Procter
Front row: *Maxwell Govert, Ashlyn Robinson, Molly Murphy;* ***Back row:*** *Andrew Vander Woude, Raege'ne Thomas, Najah Lewis-Singleton, Diontae Phillips.* ***Not pictured:*** *Danielle Castaneda.*

During parent conferences in January, Senior Zachary Dziki and Sophomore Hailey Karpen adjust their robot, 11992-Radioactivity, as they deliver drinks to the teachers. The robot was created by the new Robotics Team for the NorWestIn competition at Griffith High School. "The robot had to be about 12 feet by 12 feet, but other than that, we were given no directions," Karpen said. "The idea came completely from our minds." The team, which met with sponsor Mr. Charles Seligman for several months before the first competition, rebuilt the robot ten times. "It's a great experience for the STEM field," Dziki said. "Last year, I went to Mr. Seligman and began a recruitment drive to get kids involved." Dziki's career goal is to become an electrical engineer.

Major Guy Ramey opts for retirement

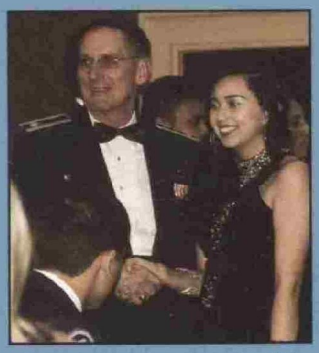
After 13 years with the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program, Major Guy Ramey is ready to retire.

Students said they are not happy to see him go.

"It is very upsetting that he is leaving behind his upperclassmen that have been with him a couple years," Junior Felicia Estrada said. "Major is a very dominant, but also a funny person, and he was always the one to glue the pieces back together. My favorite quote from him is whenever we would do our lunges, he would always say, 'Nice and low and slow like a barbecue.'"

Senior Rachel Rodriguez has been with Maj. Ramey since her freshman year.

"He taught me to never give up and always motivates me," Rodriguez said.

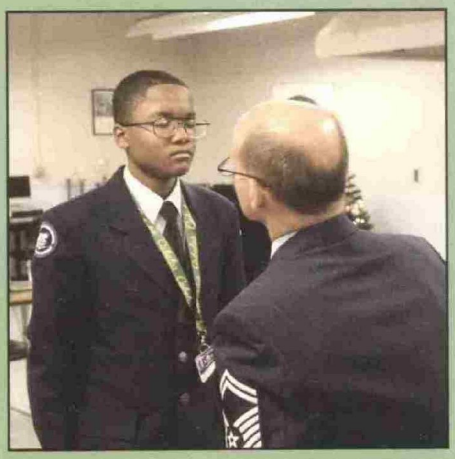


As seniors are announced at the Military Ball, Maj. Guy Ramey congratulates Corps Commander Senior Rachel Rodriguez.

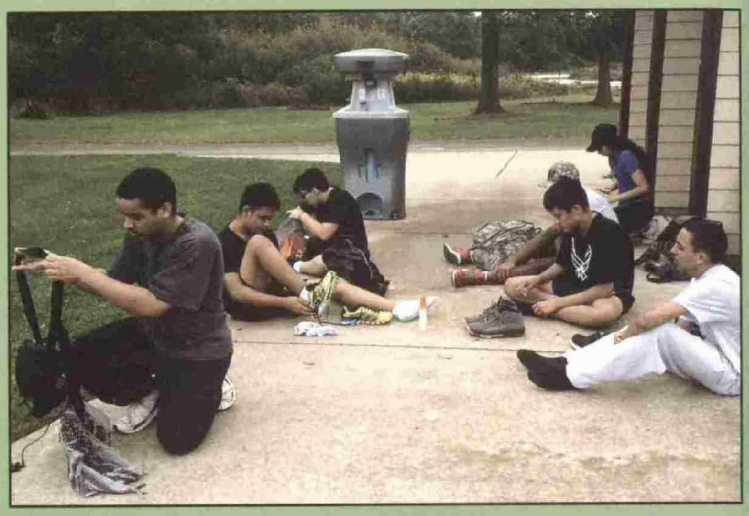
Born and raised in Tacoma, Washington, Maj. Ramey grew up in the shadow of the flight path to McCord Air Force Base. He said he grew up watching aircrafts take off and land and became interested in airplanes and the Air Force. Maj. Ramey spent 17 years on active duty.

"Because of the force reductions following the end of the Cold War, my best option was to accept early retirement," Maj. Ramey said. "I heard about the JROTC program, and it sounded good, so I gave it a try."

After several years in Buffalo, New York, Maj. Ramey moved to Indiana and set up the program when it was first instituted at MHS. The first year, they started with 62 cadets, and as time went on, the program attracted more than 170 cadets. Now, Maj. Ramey said he is ready to retire. "The one thing I'm going to miss most about MHS is the people," Maj. Ramey said. "When I retire, I plan to just take it easy."



As Sophomore Justin Edgeston stands in a straight forward position, AFJROTC teacher SSgt. Daniel Wrasman completes a uniform check. "Every Wednesday, we have a uniform inspection, or whenever we have uniform wear," Edgeston said. "Whoever is scheduled to do my inspection, in this case it was Wrasman, makes sure it looks clean and professional from head to toe."



To memorialize the sacrifices of the victims and survivors of the Bataan Death March, cadets from Air Force Junior ROTC complete a memorial hike. Senior Michael Hollowell, Sophomore Joshua Milla, Junior Samantha Perea, Senior Rachel Rodriguez, Junior Raheim Manuel, Sophomore Raymond Davila and Sophomore Jonathan Collins take a break from the hike at Oak Ridge Prairie Park. The first four miles of the hike were to Hobart and back, and then the cadets walked five miles into Griffith to Oak Ridge Prairie Park. It took them four hours to complete the walk. "Most of them didn't prepare for the walk," SSgt. Daniel Wrasman said. "They felt it afterward."

First Year Drill Team
Sponsors: SSgt. Daniel Wrasman and Maj. Guy Ramey
Front row: *Cristian Gutierrez, Dionna Lowe, Briazha Garron, Julian Lewis;*
Back row: *Kameron Williams, Masayoshi Nangin, Stephanie Herrera, Eric Hollowell, Kristyl Haymon, Daziele Pierson.*

Color Guard
Sponsors: SSgt. Daniel Wrasman and Maj. Guy Ramey
Front row: *Daziele Pierson, Julian Lewis, Cristian Gutierrez, Eric Hollowell;*
Back row: *Michael Hollowell Jr., Austin Griffith, Raymond Davila, Anthony Banks, Joshua Milla.*

Conducting Armed Drill Team practice, Sophomore Joshua Milla makes sure everything is looking right in the freshman cafeteria after school. Junior Kyra Stevens, Sophomore Samora Patrick, Senior Austin Griffith, Senior Michael Hollowell, Senior Raymond Davila, Sophomore Jonathan Collins, Junior Kayla Hudson and Senior Ceana Escalante stand in position while Milla looks over them. "In practice," Milla said, "I just make sure everything is perfect."

Drill Team Competitions

Anchor Bay, Michigan
Overall - 2nd place
First Year Color Guard - 1st place
Advanced Color Guard - 3rd place
Inspection - 3rd place
First Year Armed Drill Team - 2nd place
First Year Unarmed Drill Team - 1st place
Unarmed Exhibition - 3rd place
Armed Exhibition - 1st place

Hopkins County, Kentucky
Unarmed Exhibition - 1st place
Armed Exhibition - 1st place
First Year Drill Team - 1st place
First Year Inspection Team - 1st place
Advanced Unarmed Drill Team - 3rd place

Bloom Trail, Illinois
Overall - 5th place
Relay Race - 2nd place
Tug-of-war - 3rd place

Michigan State University
Overall - 1st place
First Year Armed Standard - 1st place
First Year Unarmed Standard - 3rd place
First Year Color Guard - 1st place
Advanced Color Guard - 3rd place
Armed Standard - 2nd place
Unarmed Standard - 3rd place
Armed Exhibition - 3rd place
Unarmed Exhibition - 2nd place
Unarmed Standard - 3rd place

AFJROTC *program grows*

Members of the AFJROTC have become more active this year, entering more drill meets and becoming more involved in the community.

Students in the corps learn about the history of the Air Force.

"When I first joined ROTC, I thought it was going to be more about marching than the history itself," Freshman Christian Gonzalez said.

Senior Austin Griffith joined his sophomore year.

"I heard it was an easy class, so I just stuck with it because it actually helped me out," Griffith said. "It's helped me keep my grades up and built better friendships."

Senior Anthony Banks has been in AFJROTC since his freshman year.

"The first year is always hard, but through time, it gets easier," Banks said. "I joined ROTC because I plan on joining the military."

AFJROTC teacher SSgt. Daniel Wrasman said the 115 cadets in the program benefit by getting out more into the community.

This year, the unit worked to help package Nutri-Plenty meals, which is a package of rice that can feed up to four people. Cadets also worked on a coat drive for students at Merrillville Intermediate School.

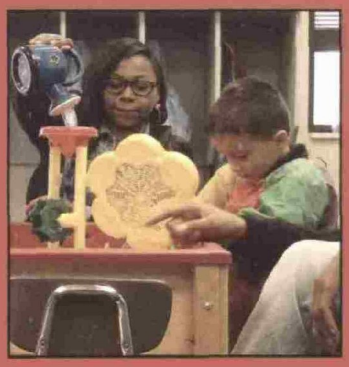
"The best part of being an ROTC teacher," SSgt. Wrasman said, "is that we actually get to take students who are a bit out of control and change them to become better as a person."

During the Military Ball, Cadet Senior James Davis admires the Challenge Coin that seniors receive. Military units have unit challenge coins that members can earn and carry that identify them as member of that unit.

More than 200 cadets, parents and friends attended the 13th annual Military Ball in March. Cadets chose Casino Royale as the theme.

Armed Drill Team
Sponsors: SSgt. Daniel Wrasman and Maj. Guy Ramey
Front row: *Kayla Hudson, Braden Worthington, Joshua Milla, Ceana Escalante, Jonathan Collins;* ***Back row:*** *Michael Hollowell Jr., Raheim Manuel, Austin Griffith, Raymond Davila, Anthony Banks, Samora Patrick.*

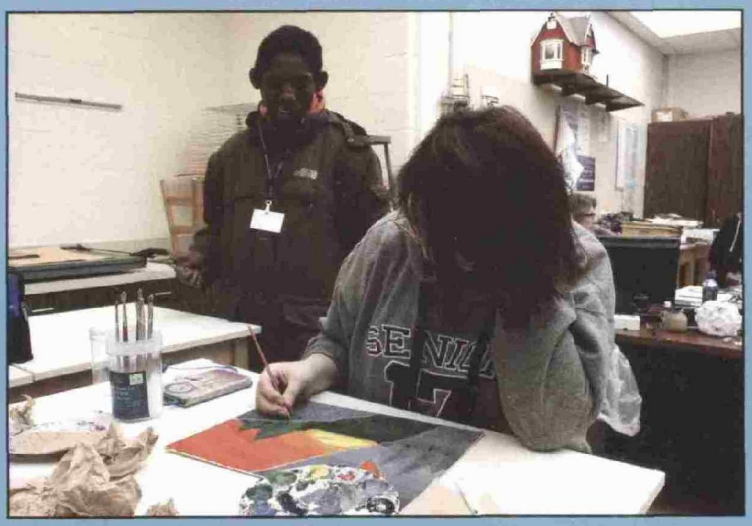
Top 6
Sponsors: SSgt. Daniel Wrasman and Maj. Guy Ramey
Front row: *Kyra Stevens, Rachel Rodriguez, Ceana Escalante;* ***Back row:*** *Anthony Banks, Austin Griffith, Michael Hollowell Jr.*



While playing with Reed Kavois, child development teacher Mrs. Shelley Ray's grandson, Freshman Darriona Jordan sits at the water station. "At the beginning of class we had to pick a station and mine was the water one," Jordan said, "Being with the kids was pretty fun." Even though Jordan was only in the class for a trimester, she said she enjoyed when the kids would actually come by her to play at her station. Day Care Day was dedicated to letting the students in child development experience how to interact with different children.

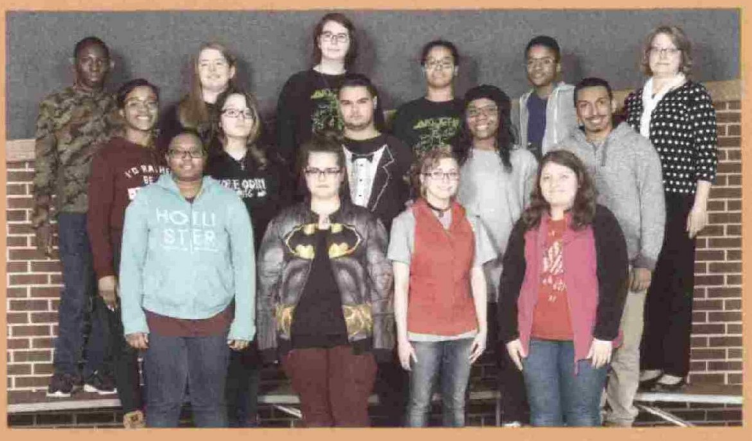
Decorating cookies with Flynn Kavois, Junior Skye Baso helps get ready for snack time. "This class has been fun so far," Baso said. "It's all for the kids really. I want to pursue a career in child education so this has helped me prepare." The childhood development class offers dual credit from Ivy Tech and is part of a career pathway in early childhood development. Students learn to work with children birth to eight years old.

To prepare a face cut out for the Key Club Carnival, Senior Hayley Steichen paints the finishing touches on the boots of Sandy Cheeks from "Spongebob." "I am in Art Club because it gives you a lot more opportunities than regular art classes. Art classes are fun too, but Art Club has bigger and better projects than the ones we do in just a regular art class," Steichen said. Steichen added that she plans to advance in her art skills and one day become an art teacher.



While in a weekly Art Club meeting, Senior Samantha Proper paints a sunset on canvas using acrylics. "I have been a part of Art Club for the past two years, and my favorite part of it is working on projects and helping out with whatever things need to get done," Proper said. Proper said that her favorite type of art is drawing because she does it the most and it helps her when she is going through a rough time. Proper was one of four students who designed a chair for the Chairish the Children child abuse prevention project. She called her chair "Studio Ghibli."

Thespian Troupe
Director: Mr. Thomas Mackey
Front row: *Isaac Graham, Mia Godfrey, Kelli Thomas, Tyreak Thomas, Megan Mays, Justin Smith, John Grace Jr.;* ***Second row:*** *Jasmine Jaramillo, Karla DeLeon, Cynthia Hindmon, Brook Stone Byerly;* ***Third row:*** *Clara Dobbin, Kaylah Johnson, Taijah Smith, Azjanae Cruz, Aaliyah Perry, I'yanna Scott;* ***Fourth row:*** *Le'Anna Scott, Alisha Mongold, Kathryn Jurczyk, Keith Barnard, Nicole Hollowell, Cheyenne Adams, Jordan Munchenburg;* ***Back row:*** *Mr. Mackey, Matthew Spicknall, Christopher Howard, Tyler Patterson, Yancy Tyler Jr., Ronald Brewer, Nana Asabere.*



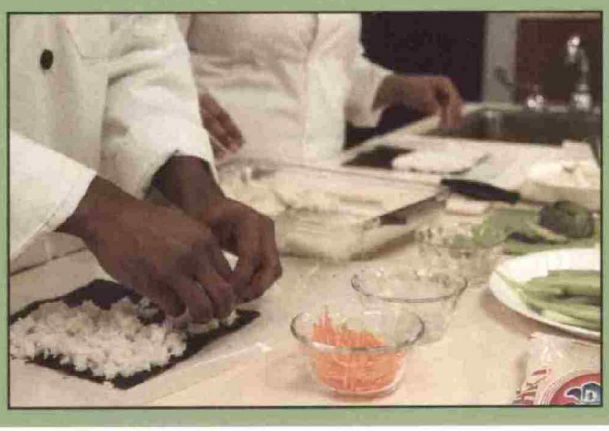
Art Club
Sponsor: Mrs. Janet Anderson
Front row: *Ti'Mair McMullan, Carly Sheets, Aleecia Niezgoda, Stephanie Puente;* ***Second row:*** *Ralissa Andrews, Julianne Roberts, Eric Ramos, Aaliyah Perry, Wade Flournoy;* ***Back row:*** *David Hagan Jr., Hayley Steichen, Samantha Proper, Briyauna McNeal, Justin Edgeston, Mrs. Anderson.*

In Culinary Arts

Pastry bag in hand, Senior Justin Lovings creates a design on his cookie. "I plan on going to culinary school," Lovings said. "I took this class so I'll know what I'm doing when I get there." Lovings said that he sees cooking as a way to freely express himself. "I started cooking when I was 13 because my mom was always working so I had to cook for myself," Lovings said. "I like being able to make my own creation."

Applying the finishing touches on a homemade pizza, Senior Shaquita Moore places slices of pepperoni on the dough. "The goal was to understand how the selected ingredients work together to form the fantastic pizza," Moore said. Moore said she joined the class because she enjoys cooking and Guidance Counselor Mrs. Betty Jordan told her it would be a fun class for her.

Demonstrating the first step of making California Rolls, Seniors Kobe Norfleet and Jacqueline Garza place rice on the nori sheet. "The most difficult part was trying to make sure you have the correct amount of ingredients," Norfleet said. Before Norfleet and Garza started to cook, they had to sanitize and prep the area. Students taking this class have the chance to take a test to get the ServSafe certification.



Students interested in the culinary arts career pathway begin with Ms. Patti Tubbs' Introduction to Culinary Arts class, a class she said gives students an idea of what they can expect in the career.

"Students should take this class if they are genuinely interested in the culinary or hospitality career field because it gives a better perspective on the industry," Ms. Tubbs said.

Students learn basic culinary skills of the food service industry, safety, sanitation and nutrition. They also investigate careers in the industry.

The culinary arts class is three trimesters and two class periods long. Each class period is worth one credit.

"This class is worth six credits and it is a dual credit class," Ms.Tubbs said. Students earn the credit with Ivy Tech.

Advanced classes spend time in food labs, studying various baking and pastry arts skills.

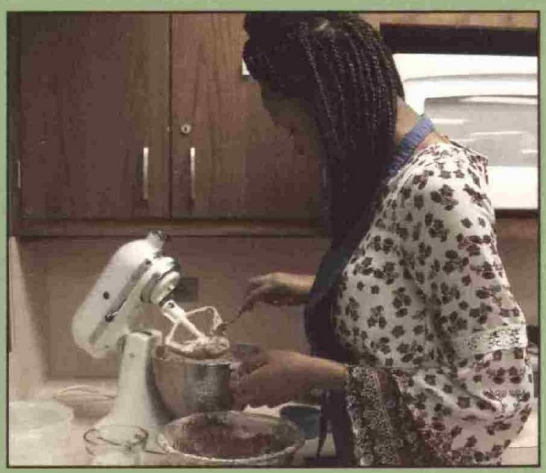
Although the introductory class is offered to everyone, Ms. Tubbs said she advises students to have passion for the field.

Senior Diana Banks said that although eating is her favorite thing to do in the class, she has learned a lot during the time she has been in the class.

"This class has helped me realize how much I like food. It has also taught me the skills I need to learn to be in this career path, such as the proper way to make and cut things," Banks said.

Banks suggested that students interested in food preparation should take the class.

"I recommend this class to anyone who likes food and likes to make it," Banks said. "Ms. Tubbs will get you far if you listen to her."



After mixing icing for her teacher's birthday cake, Junior Dominique Holden uses a spoon to clean the icing from the mixer. "The assignment was surprisingly easy," Holden said. "All I had to do was follow the recipe." Holden said the class helps prepare her for life. "I learn a variety of recipes which help further my culinary career," Holden said. "I would honestly recommend this class for anyone seeking a career in culinary arts."

One band, one sound
working together to achieve goals

Setting and achieving goals can be difficult for many people, but for the band, it is second nature.

This year at the Indiana State School Music Association competitions, the Marching Band's goal was to come home with all golds, and that's what they did.

Every year, the Marching, Concert and Jazz Bands compete against schools from all over the state. During the Marching Band festival season, the band went to Kankakee Valley High School, Highland High School, Hobart High School and Crown Point High School, where they received golds.

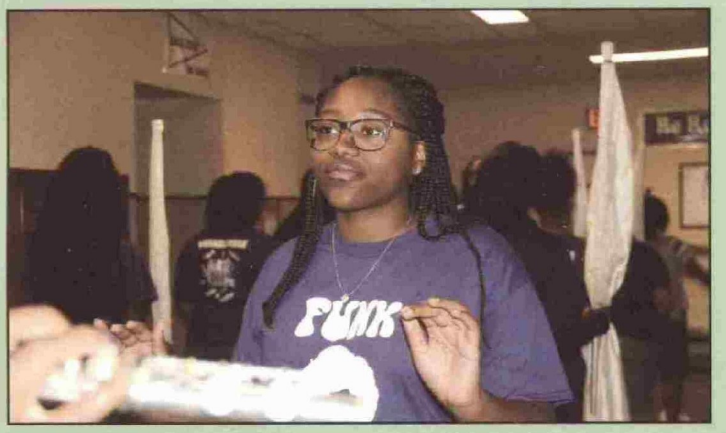
"The kids made their goals this year to earn all golds, which is exactly what they did," Band Director Mr. Mark Danielson said, "They didn't practice more. They practiced better."

The bond that they have is just as important as their goals. Most of the students have been together since sixth grade, when they first joined band.

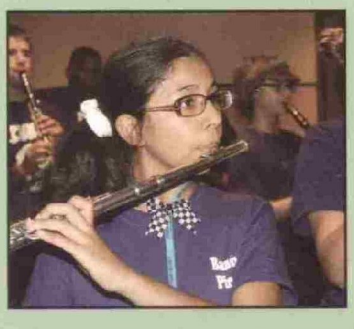
"There are so many different types of people in band. All these different people coming together to do one thing is the best part," Junior Edmund Gunn said

Since they have been together so long, they know what makes them stronger, as well as weaker. By improving together, band members said their unity has gotten stronger.

"We might not get along all the time, but everyone has each other's backs, from the teacher to the students," Junior Mik'el Mays said. "We're like one big band family. One messes up, we all mess up. One succeeds, we all succeed. One band, one sound."



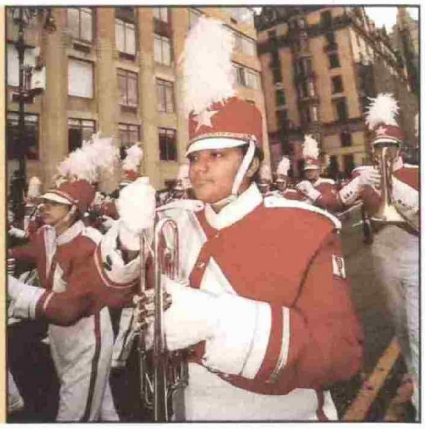
As the Drum Major, Sophomore Samaria Patrick leads the band down through the hallways on game day during football season. "I really enjoy band because you meet really interesting people that you wouldn't normally meet," Patrick said. "Because there are so many different people, you start to create a family with them."



Playing her flute, Freshman Keili Cruz performs with the Marching Band as they march around school in the morning before a football game. "The way the oboe sounded really appealed to me," Cruz said. "But since they don't let us play oboe a lot in band, flute seemed similar." Cruz is trying to get a scholarship for band so she can continue to play when she is out of high school.

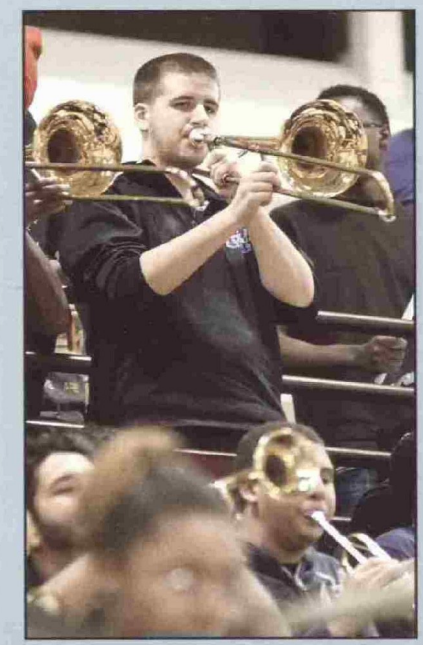
Vanderbilt's holiday magic

As part of Macy's Great American Marching Band, Senior Allison Vanderbilt marches from Central Park to Herald Square in New York City. Vanderbilt was among 185 high school musicians selected nationwide to participate in Macy's 90th annual Thanksgiving Day Parade.



"I was just really focused on not messing up and forgetting the song. I was really nervous the whole time, but for the most part, it was a really cool and exciting experience despite the cold."
Allison Vanderbilt

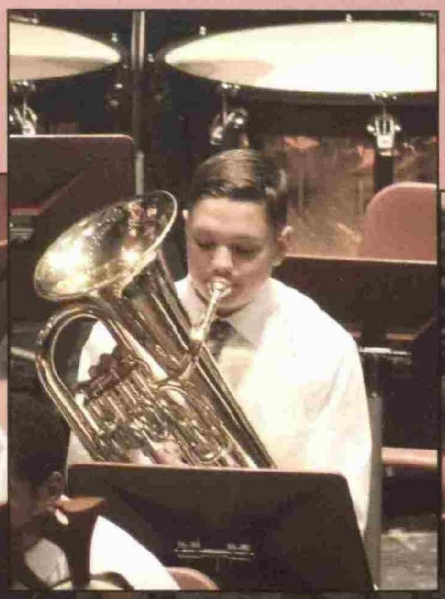
Before performing at Whiting Lakefront Park, the Drumline poses for a picture. "It was specifically for Drumline," Sophomore Aubin Robinson said. "This composer liked us a lot, so he composed the music, and we had an orchestra behind us. It was like our own concert." The concert was held over the summer, and the Drumline practiced during the day. "It was much more packed than what we thought, so we were all really nervous, but ended up doing great," Robinson said.



Part of the Pep Band, Junior John Sawyer plays the trombone at a home basketball game. Sawyer said he "picked up" the instrument in September because he wanted to play something low brass. "I took the instrument home with a practice book," he said. Sawyer plays the oboe for Concert Band and the clarinet for Marching Band. "I like them all," he said of the instruments. "Each has it's own purpose. The clarinet is easy to hold and march. The trombone stands out because of its sound." Band Director Mr. Mark Danielson said Sawyer has many strengths. "He's dependable and courteous. He's always here early and always willing to help. Kids look to him for help and guidance."

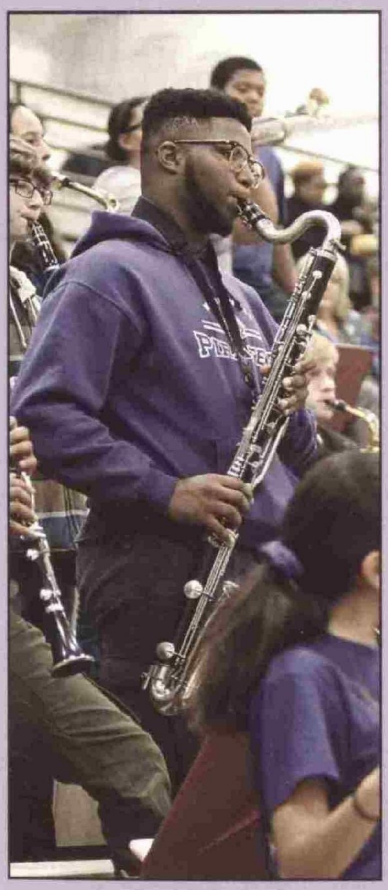
IN concert

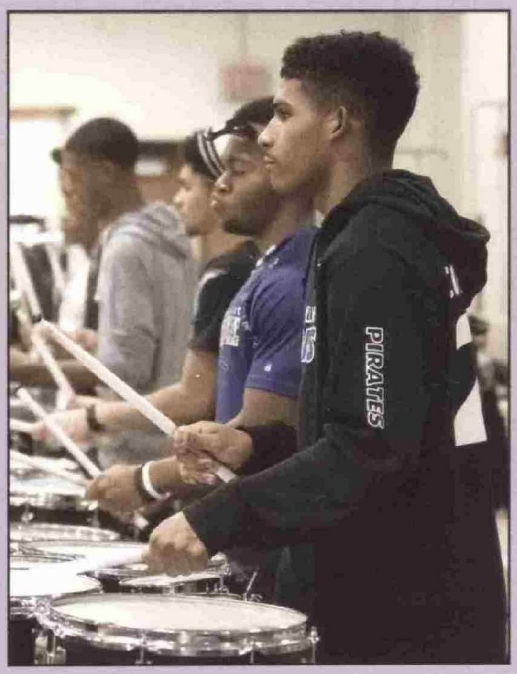
To keep the atmosphere festive, Sophomore Joshua Kirksey and Senior Gerald Akujobi share a joke during the Holiday Concert. "I joined because I wanted to be like my uncle who played saxophone," Akujobi said. He has been playing for seven years, and Kirksey has been playing for five. "When I was growing up, I listened to a lot of jazz, and I really liked it," Kirksey said. He said that he enjoys band because he's always learning new things and meeting new people.



During the Holiday Concert, Sophomore Bryan Sobczak plays the baritone horn. "I joined band because my brothers were in it, so I wanted to follow in their footsteps," Sobczak said. He said that the band improved a lot from last year and that they can only get better.

Above: Before the concert begins, Senior Serena Thormann gets ready by reading the sheet music. "My sister played in orchestra, and I didn't want to do what she did," Thormann said. "Plus, there's more of a variety to play in band. You have almost an endless selection." Left: Playing percussion in the Holiday Concert, Junior Cameron Figueroa focuses on his sheet music. "The concert was neat and went pretty well. Everything was put together and ran smoothly," Figueroa said. Figueroa has been playing for five years, and he also plays the piano. He plans to keep playing after high school and wants to major in music production.





Playing the tenor drums, Sophomore Paul Lopez performs with the Drumline at a home basketball game. "When I was in middle school, a teacher told me I should play drums," Lopez said, "So when I got to high school, my mom encouraged me even more, and I joined." (Left) Sophomore Michael Gaines plays the bass clarinet in the Pep Band.

ISSMA BAND

Event	Rating
Kankakee Valley Marching Festival	Gold
Highland High School Marching Festival	Gold
Hobart High School Marching Festival	Gold
Music, Visual & Color Guard Achievement Marching Festival at Crown Point	Gold
Visual Distinction Award	
District	
Solo & Ensemble	4 gold 4 silver
State	
Jazz Band	Silver

In with the new
Orchestra students adjust to change

With a new leader comes fresh ideas and a change of pace. The orchestra students know a lot about this, as Ms. Diane Rosenthal is the second director that they have had in two school years. After an abrupt change last year, the orchestra needed to rebuild a strong foundation.

The students believe that Ms. Rosenthal is the woman to do that.

"Ms. Rosenthal is a great teacher and she's inspired so much," violinist Sophomore Cheyenne Figueroa said. "This is the first time the orchestra has gotten involved in the community."

The students participated in the food drive and brought in the most items.

Ms. Rosenthal isn't new to Merrillville Schools. She taught at Merrillville Intermediate School before team teaching at Pierce and the high school.

"In high school I wanted to be a performer, but I realized that I loved the process of putting the pieces together to make music," Ms. Rosenthal said.

With such a large group, creating harmony can be difficult. Ms. Rosenthal said that her goal is to build bridges between the different levels of musicians.

"A lot of the students don't even know each other," Ms. Rosenthal said. "The better we know each other, the better we play together."

As the only sophomore in advanced orchestra, Figueroa said that she feels proud of herself for being able to handle the pressure.

"My favorite part is the friendly competition between players," Figueroa said, "I enjoy being able to improve with my peers."

Cellist Senior Emily DeCausemaker started on viola and switched to cello in seventh grade.

"I love getting to experience different pieces and learning to play as a group," DeCausemaker said.

DeCausemaker said that her favorite style of music is baroque chamber.

"It tells a story and it sounds like the instruments are having a conversation with each other," DeCausemaker said.

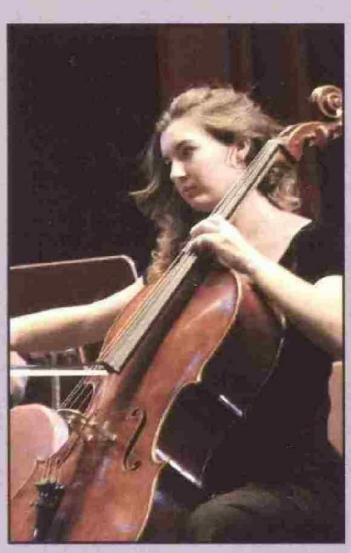
The students agree that there has been a lot of progress made this year.

"Last year was messy. We worked with what we had," violist Senior Megan Mays said.

She said that the transition from last year was smooth because the students already knew Ms. Rosenthal.

"We're thankful for Ms. Rosenthal," Mays said.

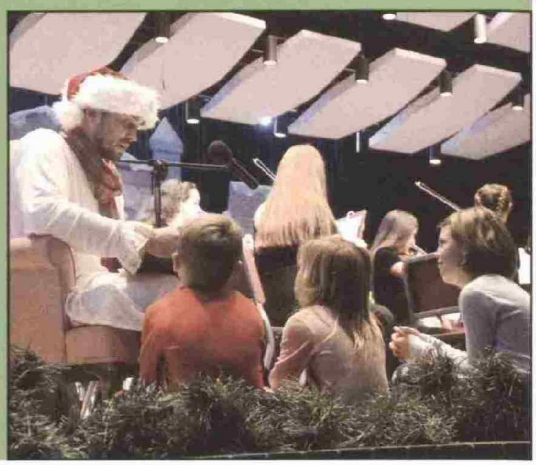
"The best part is seeing how being involved in music helps kids," Ms. Rosenthal said. "It helps them gain confidence and grow as people."



Senior Emily DeCausemaker plays the cello at the Holiday Concert. DeCausemaker took up the cello in seventh grade after playing the viola.

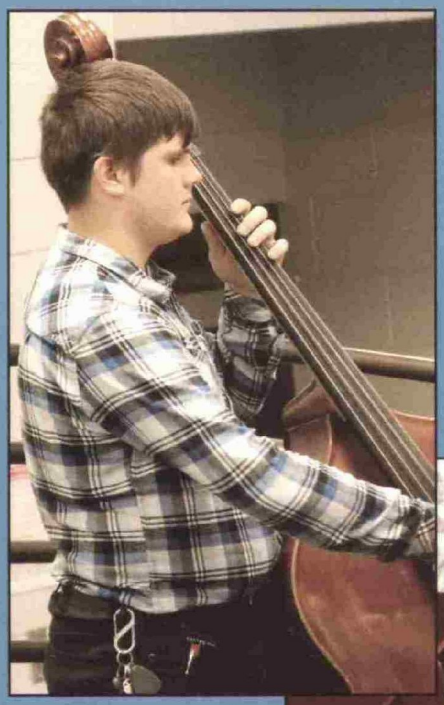
'Twas The Night Before Christmas'

Dressed in a nightshirt, scarf and Santa's hat, Assistant Principal Mr. James Stamper reads "Twas The Night Before Christmas" to his children during the holiday concert. Mr. Stamper said that his children were thrilled to be on stage with the orchestra, and they wrote thank you notes to the members of the orchestra.

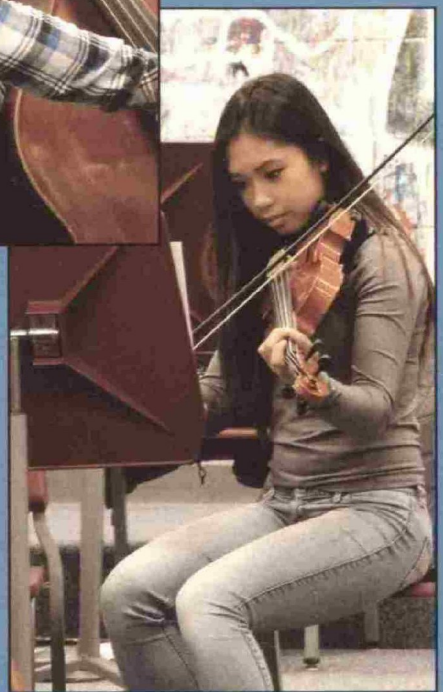


"I'm a big supporter of the arts and music. I always stop in when they are practicing. Ms. Rosenthal is outstanding and they're the best orchestra I've seen in a while. It was a really fun night."
Mr. James Stamper

Creating harmony

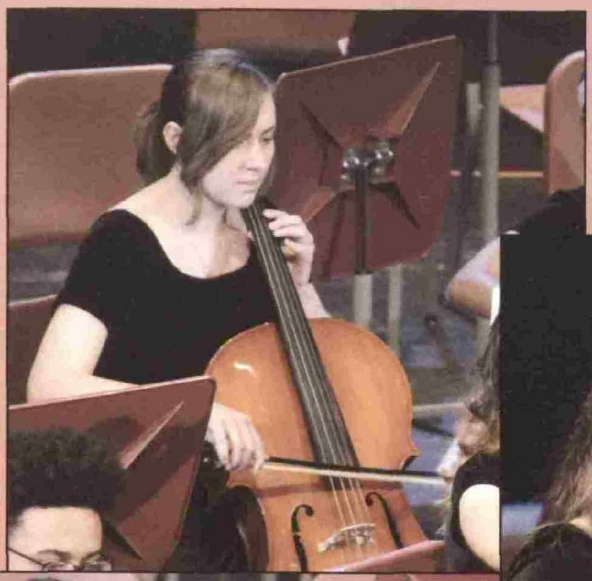


Rehearsing a piece for the Holiday Concert, upright bassist Junior Matthew Spicknall plays his part. "It's a relaxing instrument. I like playing jazz," Spicknall said. He said he started playing the summer before sixth grade and that he practices seven and a half hours a day. "At times it's difficult," Spicknall said. "Higher intonations and syncopated rhythms are hard."



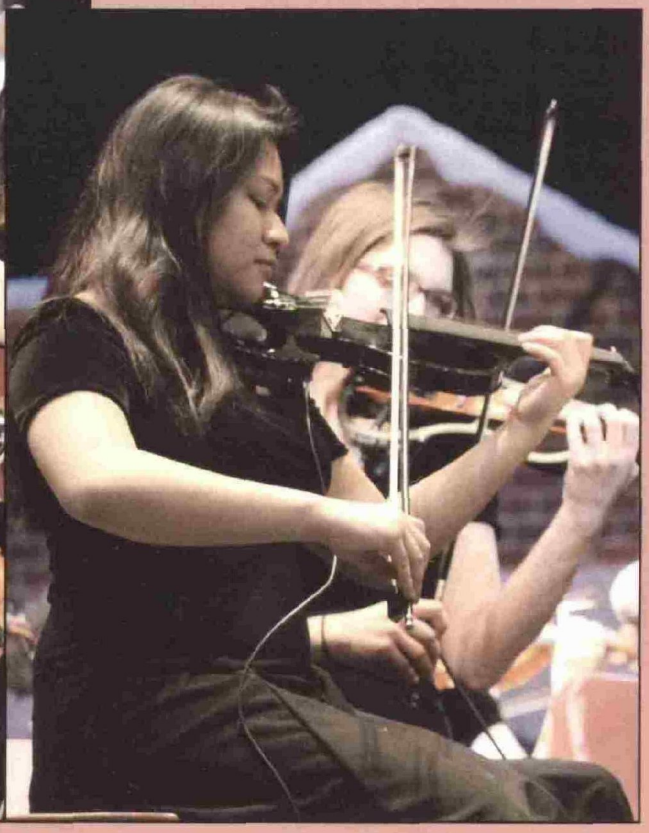
Following the sheet music, violinist Junior Chadryne Tamo rehearses a piece. "I like how I feel when I finally learn a song," Tamo said. "It's a sense of accomplishment." She said that the most difficult skill is the ability to blend with the group and stay on beat. Because Tamo wasn't in orchestra second trimester, she said that she made sure to practice at least two hours a day.

IN concert



With eyes on her sheet music, cellist Senior Isobel Collins plays her part in the piece called "For Unto Us a Child is Born." "I chose the cello because it is very mellow, like me," Collins said. Collins said that the best part of the concert was when the audience stood up at the end of "Carol of the Bells."

Staying focused, violinist Senior Kathleen Aton plays the electric violin. "The only difference with the electric violin is the sound it produces and making sure the amp sounds right," Aton said. Aton plays with the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra and suggested using the drums and electric instruments because it was fun when she did it with the symphony.



Listening to the rest of the orchestra, violist Senior Mahqueese McMillan makes sure to play the right notes. "For Unto Us was the hardest song to play because we had to listen to each other more since there was no conductor," McMillan said. McMillan has been playing the viola since sixth grade and said that he chose the viola because it has a darker sound and sounds cooler than the violin.

"I love the process of working with people and putting the pieces together to make music. Every single kid has done everything I've asked for," Ms. Diane Rosenthal said.

ISSMA Orchestra

Event	Ratings
Regional	**Solos**
Solo & Ensemble	30 gold
	13 silver
	11 qualified for state
	Ensembles
	13 gold
	3 silver
	8 qualified for state
State	**Solos**
Solo & Ensemble	11 gold
	Ensembles
	7 gold
	1 silver
Jazz	Gold
Organization	3 gold
	2 gold in sight reading

Busy choir students keep active throughout year

A busy schedule at school and in the community demands that choir students learn how to sing well together.

In addition to scheduled concerts in the fall, winter and spring, the choir also performed at an anti-bullying showcase during the school day.

"My favorite performance that choir has done was the Stand Up: Anti–Bullying Showcase," Sophomore Aniya Edwards said. "It was nice to see my peers saying their own stories and relating to it in their own way."

Choir Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart prepares for many events throughout this school year. The advanced choir class is always on a busy schedule. They're sometimes called in on weekends and during the school week to entertain at different places.

This year, the choir performed in Hobart and Valparaiso, at The Star Plaza, the Police Department and other places around Merrillville.

"My favorite place we've performed at this school year was performing for all five of the elementary schools in Merrillville," Senior Cherise Higgins said. "We got to get out of school a day before winter break, which was pretty cool, we got free pizza and we got to sing to little kids."

In the late winter, choir members compete in The Indiana State School Music Association contests. They sing in solo and ensemble performances. Throughout the time they try out many different songs to see which one fits best with the group and soloist.

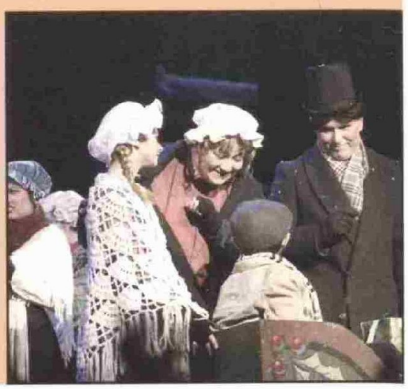
"Having a solo benefits me because it gives me a chance to focus on my own singing, the process on bettering myself," Edwards said.

"Choir is not about how great you can sing," Mrs. Reinhart said. "Anyone can sing. It's about how well we blend together."

While performing at the Martin Luther King Jr. Brunch, Choir Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart joins Sophomore Aniya Edwards in singing "Ride the Chariot." "My reason to sing is to influence others through voice and music," Edwards said. Edwards earned a gold rating for her solo at the Indiana State School Music Association state contest.

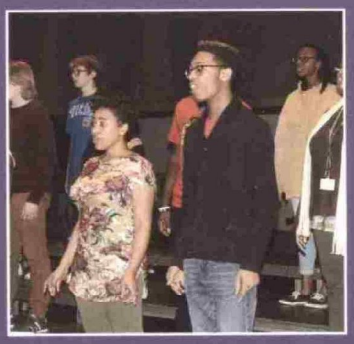
'God bless us everyone.'

In "Scrooge," Mrs. Bob Cratchit (Mrs. Melinda Reinhart) and her husband Bob Cratchit (Alumnus Garry St. Martin) talk to their children Tiny Tim (Jack Reinchert) and Cathy Cratchit (Abby Morrison). "Scrooge" was produced by M & M Productions and Ross Music Theatre and sponsored by the Choir Boosters.

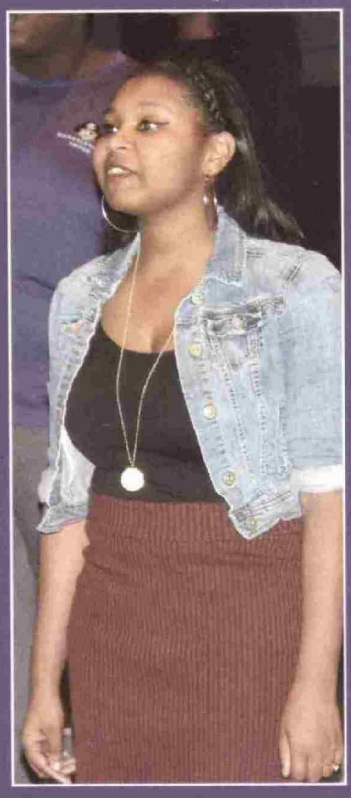


"Our students learn so many things from the Scrooge experience. For those who have never done a musical, they get the opportunity to experience the effort needed to create a musical theatrical production. Working side by side with community members helps them learn not only the songs, choreography, dialogue required for the show, but also professionalism, work ethic, sense of responsibility, teamwork, dedication and the list goes on." Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

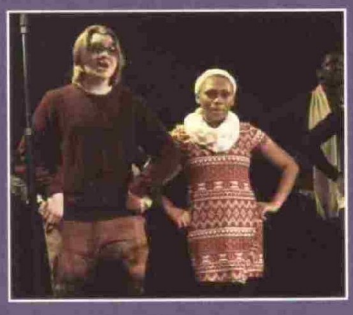
To practice for the holiday concert, Junior Cardalina Hernandez and Senior Ronald Brewer sing along to "Christmas on Broadway." "It was great to showcase different voices," Brewer said. "It was a great way to finish off my senior year." Both Brewer and Hernandez earned gold ratings at ISSMA state.



Practicing for perfection

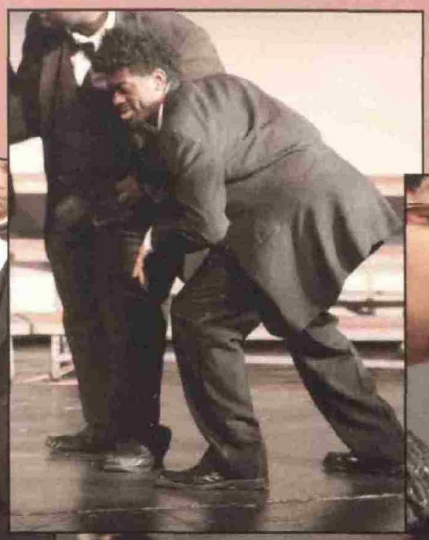


As she sings along to "Hallelujah Chorus," Junior Kiariah Carter prepares for the holiday concert. Taking only three days to practice, Carter preformed her first solo at the concert. "I look forward to the holiday concert every year," Carter said. "I get to work with people I don't usually get to work with."

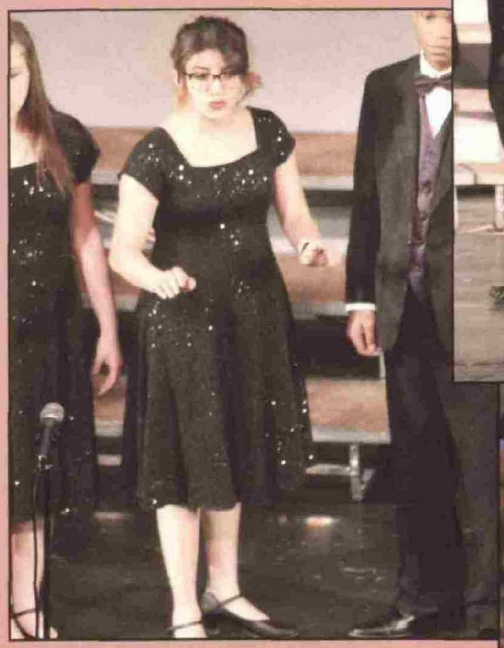


Partners in the dance number, "A Caroling We Go," Sophomore Lucas Reinhart and Junior Cara Blanford try to get the song down in practice. "It was fun seeing all the classes do their own thing," Reinhart said. "The rock and roll dance was my favorite. It was a nice '40s style dance." Reinhart received a gold at state for his solo.

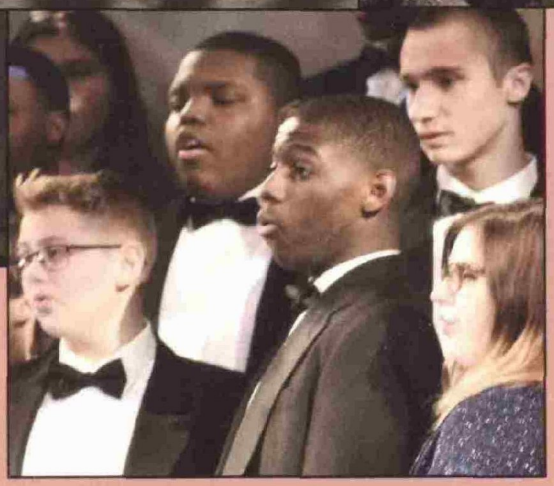
IN concert



As a bass singer in the Choralteens, Senior Devyn Williams takes the lead in an all-male number, "What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor?" "I just went with the flow, and I thought outside the box. It made the crowd go crazy," Williams said. The all-male ensemble was one of six groups to earn perfect scores at ISSMA District and receive a gold rating.



As she sings along to "Simple Gifts," Junior Jazmin Jaramillo directs her ensemble in the Susan Emig Scholarship Concert. "All the choir groups did their best and it was one of the greatest concerts we've had," Jaramillo said. The concert preceded the Indiana State School Music Association state contest where the Jaramillo Ensemble earned a silver rating.



Above: During the Susan Emig Scholarship Concert, Senior Cynthia Hindmon sings along with her senior class to the song, "Sanctus." The show features numbers sung for the Indiana State School Music Association competition. The seniors practiced for four weeks and they performed three songs. "I think we did amazing. We went out with a bang, and I think it was a great way to finish off my senior year," Hindmon said. Hindmon earned a gold rating at state for her solo. Left: Members of the concert choir, Sophomores Braden Worthington and Jordan Munchenburg sing a Latin song. "The song, 'Adoramus Te,' was not very hard to learn even though it was a Latin word song," Worthington said. At state, Worthington received a gold rating for his solo, "I Wonder as I Wander."

Performing at the Martin Luther King Brunch hosted by STAND, members of the Advanced Choir Sophomore Lucas Reinhart, Senior Tyreak Thomas, Junior John Grace Jr., Junior JaKobe Wilbon, Senior Justin Smith, Junior Tyler Russell and Senior Ronald Brewer sing "Lacrimosa," a Latin requiem begun by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, but left unfinished at his death and finished by others. "I had fun at the banquet," Wilbon said. "I love when we sing together. We are not just a group. We are a family that loves each other and what we do." After singing together and learning each other's style, choir members said they have been able to grow together and form a bond.

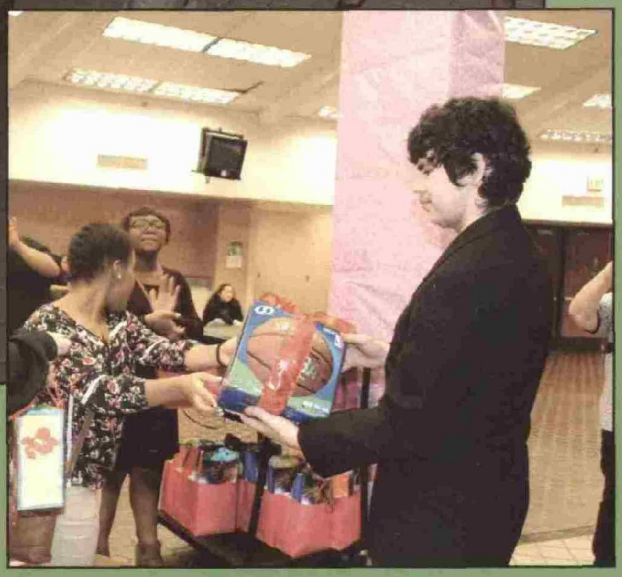
ISSMA Choir

Event	***Ratings***
District	***Solos***
Solo & Ensemble	*4 perfect scores*
	116 gold
	4 silver
	Ensembles
	8 gold
State	
Solo & Ensemble	***Solos***
	15 gold
	1 perfect score
	Ensembles
	6 gold
	2 silver

Dancing together

During the dance sponsored by Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Sophomore Hanna Stevens dances with Peer Tutor Senior Samantha Kale-Foster. "I loved dancing with my friend Sammie and my date," Stevens said. Stevens said she was shy at first, but the music helped her open up.

While dancing with Ms. Allyson Arredondo, Freshman Jaquisha Haymon shows off her moves with Sophomore Maurice Martin and Freshman Caitlin Perosky. "The dance was the best thing ever," Haymon said. Haymon said she loved being around her friends and being able to dance the whole time. MHS alumni often attend the dance, and everyone who attends receives special gift bags that are prepared by members of FCCLA. During the school day, Mrs. Nancy Draper's advanced math classes help FCCLA members decorate the cafeteria for the 110 young adults who attend the dance.

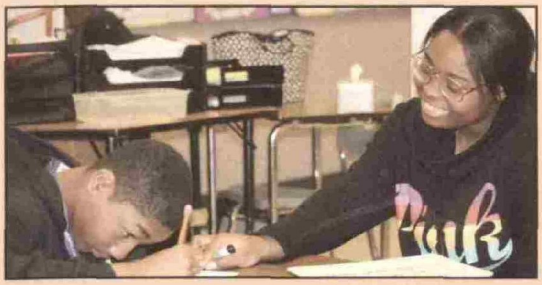


At his second dance, Senior Andrew Leon accepts gifts from FCCLA members. "The dance was awesome," Leon said. "I liked dancing with my girlfriend." Leon said the music was better this year. Ms. Patti Tubbs and the culinary arts students prepared the refreshments for this year's dance.

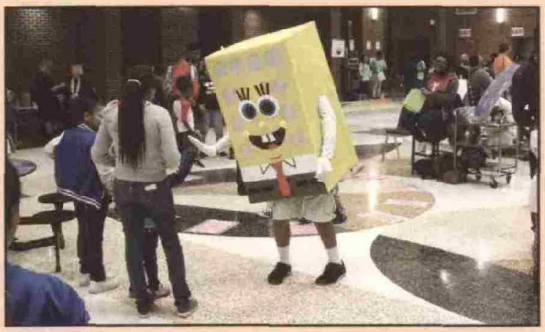
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
Sponsor: Ms. Carol Von Behren
Front row: *Elyssa Jenkins, Kylie Gidley, Amya Aviles, Tamia Stingley;* ***Back row:*** *Ms. Von Behren, Najah Lewis-Singleton, Re'nee Mallett, Joy Obong, Karrington Davis.*

Environmental Club
Sponsor: Mrs. Patricia Robison
Front row: *Dulce Cuazitl, Mrs. Robison;* ***Back row:*** *Nicole Hollowell, Leia Mesarch , Sarah Juarez, Jasmine Collins, Kyle Noonan, Kinnedi Davis. Members of the club pose with Sheldon Cooper, a fictional character from "The Big Bang Theory."*

Making better outcomes *through service*



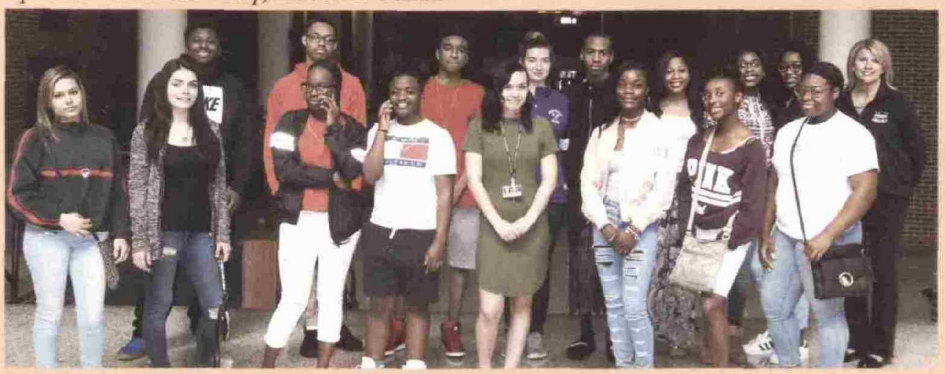
As Sophomore Ryan Brown works through his writing assignments, Peer Tutor Senior Brianna Brown provides assistance. "It's very rewarding to have peer tutors," Mrs. Alicia Lasky said. "The kids listen more because the tutors are their friends rather than a teacher and it makes learning for them fun." Brown said she had extra room in her schedule and called the two class periods she spends in Mrs. Lasky's room "the best class in four years. This is the best thing I have experienced and I now want to make it my career."



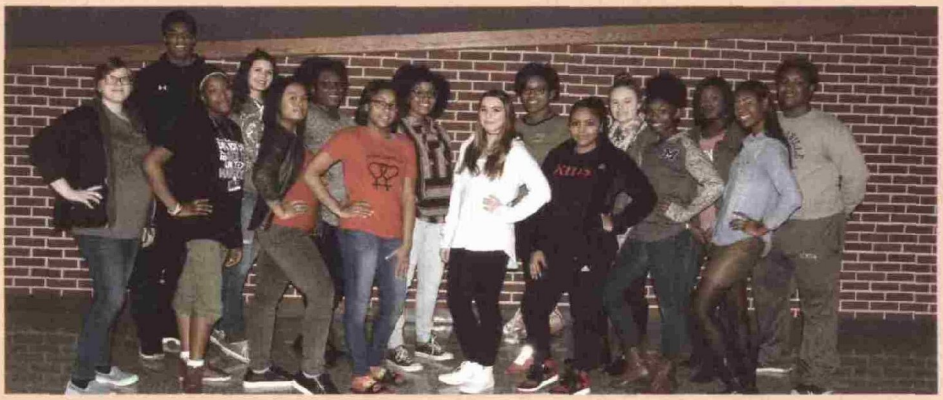
In costume as Spongebob Squarepants during the Key Club Carnival, Key Club and YES Interact member Senior Carlos Mejia entertains the children. "I love helping people in the community and I have a good heart, so making others happy is just second nature to me," Mejia said. Thirteen different clubs and organizations participated in the carnival that raised $616. The money raised benefits the Himalayan Cataract Project and Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Peer Tutors

Sponsors: Ms. Alicia Lasky, Mrs. Beth O'Halek



***Front row:** Barbara Carbajal, Brianna Grygar, Marshae Lane, Vanessa Gomez, Jei'Avonni Gage, Diamond Morris, Brianna Brown; **Back row:** Mikal Funches, Henry Hill, Alton Desadier, Emily DeCausemaker, Marquise Jackson, Lindsey Edwards, Deameka Crawford, Gabriyan Young, Mrs. Lasky. Not pictured: Karis Toney, Alyssia Whiteside, Justin Jerry, Brandon Shelton, Ashley Matthews, Alicia Maclin, Francisco Vazquez, Jerome Lynch, Brendea McNeal, Brittanie Lewis.*



***Front row:** Bryana Wheeldon, Taylashe Ferguson, Sydney Smith, Brianna Jones, Tori Holst, Alina Garcia, Angela Toomer, Tasha Hardin; **Back row:** Jaylon Holmes, Samantha Kale-Foster, Areiana Whiteside, Anya Johnson, Taejah Harris, Katelyn Smith, Alexus Simpson, Terrell Foster.*

Key Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Veronica Maldonado

***First row:** I'yanna Scott, Kavitha Udumula, Karrington Davis, Christian Luckett, Sadia Hildebrand; **Second row:** Edward Quintero, Justin Edgeston, Ralissa Andrews, Donmeique Yates, Kayla Alcox, Janel Roberts; **Back row:** Mrs. Betty Jordan, Carlos Mejia, Hailey Karpen, Brandon Scott, Halina Duke, Mrs. Maldonado.*

Youth Enriched by Service Club

Sponsor: Mrs. Betty Jordan

***Front row:** I'Yanna Scott, Karrington Davis, Kavitha Udumula, Christian Luckett, Sadia Hildebrand; **Second row:** Justin Edgeston, Edward Quintero, Donmeique Yates, Ralissa Andrews, Kayla Alcox, Janel Roberts; **Back row:** Mrs. Veronica Maldonado, Carlos Mejia, Brandon Scott, Hailey Karpen, Halina Duke, Mrs. Jordan.*

Students earn certification in nursing program

Sixteen students took advantage of a unique opportunity to participate in a certified nursing assistant program with St. Francis University in Crown Point.

Assistant principal of counseling services Ms. Michelle Sulich said the arrangement with St. Francis is part of the new Merrillville Career Consortium, designed to give students hands-on training in careers.

"Nursing homes and hospitals, when they're trying to staff their buildings, will tell the director of business that they will take their entire graduating (CNA) class and they know that they can place them," Ms. Sulich said.

St. Francis has a 100 percent pass rate on the state exam for CNA students and a 100 percent job placement rate.

The inaugural certified nursing assistant students include (front row) Junior Kaylin Jones, Junior Chadryne Tamo, Senior Infinity Patton and (back rown) Junior Gregory Romeo, Senior De'Jah Jones, Junior Brandon Dawning, Senior JayLnn Hardrick, Senior Timoya Bryant.

This program is an opportunity for students to discover a passion for something they might not have realized they had.

"It opened my eyes to the medical world itself. After high school I plan on becoming a nursing professor. There were so many things that I learned that I would love to teach to others," Junior Gregory Romeo said.

In the inaugural group during the first trimester, eight students became certified. Another eight were enrolled during the second trimester.

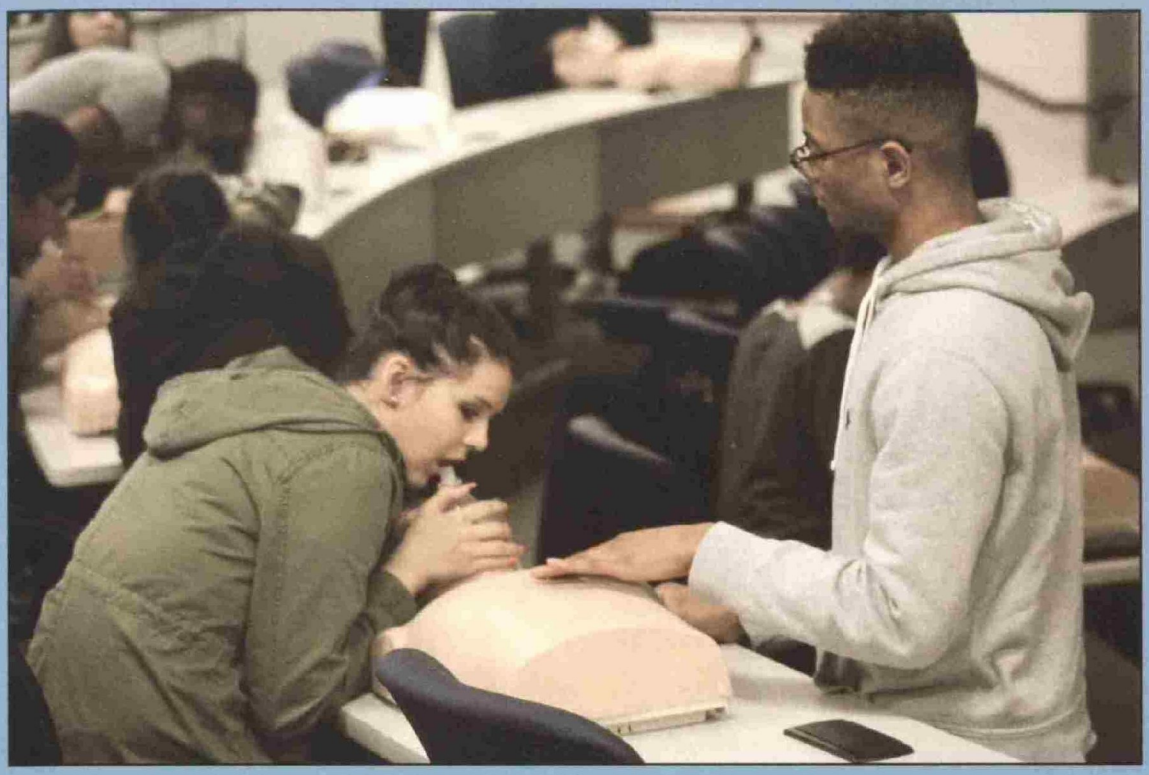
"It was hard at first, but then I just had to learn how to manage everything. It was as hard as I expected it to be because I was doing it before college and adults do it so I knew it was going to be hard," Junior De'Jah Jones said.

Although some students faced hardships, this experience brought both positive and negative memories.

"To me, the worst part was probably all the time and effort you have to put into it," Senior Infinity Patton said. "The best part is that we all bonded and would help each other out when needed."

English as a New Language
Sponsor: Ms. Dawn Czuba
Front Row: *Illaha Abdul, Emmanuel Gonzalez – Ruiz, Isatou Samba, Karla Martinez;* ***Back Row:*** *Ms. Czuba, Fatou Cisse, Bilal Asghar, Tomas Gonzalez Ruiz, Aminah Samba.*

French Club
Sponsors: Mrs. Melissa Byerly and Ms. Irene Spiro
Front row: *Jasmine Jaramillo, Alexis Smith, Carly Gubitz, Aleecia Niezgoda, Brook Stone Byerly, Deverieux Coleman;* ***Second row:*** *Justin Hinton, Jaden LaRue, Alisha Mongold, Autumn Kiser, Alana Winters, Anya Johnson;* ***Back row:*** *Mrs. Byerly, Maxwell Moore, Christopher Howard, Fabienne Laurisch, Justin Smith, Ms. Spiro.*



For their CPR certification in Ms. Sue Hayes' EMS class, Seniors Samantha Kale-Foster and Thomas Golden perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a dummy. Both seniors said they think that they have come a long way from the classroom and appreciate the hands-on learning experience. "This is one of the best classes I have ever taken in high school," Kale-Foster said. "Now since I am certified in CPR, I am going to save lives."

Students get hands-on training in fire and rescue as part of CTE classes

Students interested in going into a firefighting career now have an opportunity to get a head start.

This year was the first time the two-trimester Fire and Rescue class has been offered. Mr. Dan Schoon, Guidance Director Ms. Michelle Sulich and the Career and Technical Education staff worked together to develop the class.

"This class allows me to show my leadership skills outside the classroom setting," Mr. Schoon said. "This class means the world to me. "

Mr. Schoon has been a firefighter for 13 years, and he is the captain of the Griffith Fire Department.

The first trimester attracted 49 students who enrolled to earn one or all five Indiana state fire certifications, including a certificate for fire fighters or hazardous material handling, or two industry certifications for first responders and emergency medical technicians.

"Fire and rescue is my favorite class. I like how there's so much physical activity and always something to do," Junior Delaun Robinson said.

"I plan to be a firefighter when I leave high school, and this class teaches me things that real firefighters know," Senior Kamari Cage said.

"Students can benefit from this because firefighters are in high demand," Mr. Schoon said.

Spanish Club
Sponsor: Ms. Esmeralda Zamora
***Front row:** Karrington Davis, Sairah Asghar, Kavitha Udumula, Cynthia Hindmon, Amnah Asghar, Yulissa Gonzalez; **Second row:** Karla DeLeon, Alicia Frazier, Alonna Traylor, Jacqueline Garza, Ms. Zamora; **Back row:** Anya Johnson, Alan Martinez, Steffan Santiago, Diontae Phillips, Halina Duke.*

Members of Spanish Club enjoy an outing to El Salto, a local Mexican restaurant. Senior Kavitha Udumula said she embraces the culture and is happy she is a part of it. "It's interesting and the sponsors do a great job of incorporating actual Spanish culture into the club," Udumula said.

Advanced Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: *Tyler Carlisle, Kennedy Cole, Tatiana Gilbert, Karla DeLeon, Jazmyn Velazquez, Annie Castleberry, Mr. Danielson, Angelica Knox, Sabrina Thormann, Jansen Tan, Serena Thormann, Kayla Josleyn, Mik'el Mays;* ***Second row:*** *Cameron Figueroa, Cameron La Belle, Alison Vanderbilt, Leilani Cruz, Gregory Romeo, Cameron Louthan, Kaja Sims, Jessica Gamble, Aubin Robinson, Kristin Rogers, Keylian Brown, Adrianna Carey, Jalen Adams;* ***Third row:*** *Jimaris Hutch, Gerald Akujobi Jr., Joe Stevenson. Isaac Graham, Jahnari Pruitt, Vincente Altieri, Joshua Kirksey, Cole Frey, Caleb Hiller, Noah Bradley, Khayla Harris, Samaria Patrick, Isaiah Readus, Derrick Jones, Matthew Alleyne, Xavier Madera;* ***Back row:*** *Milan Trajkovski, Anthony Atria, Nana Asabere, Devin Hence, Kyle Semmes, Timothy Porter, Paul Lopez Jr., Daniel Lewis, Edmund Gunn Jr., Erin Sims, Bryan Sobczak, Cameron Woods, John Sawyer, Marcus Miller, Israel Melendez.*

Beginning Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: *Rebecca Saluska, Morgan Turner, Ashanti Lenoir, Mr. Danielson, Angelina Wilkins, Janae McFerrin, Keili Cruz;* ***Second row:*** *Bryce Ervin, Samantha Daulton, Ashanti Castleberry, Emily Stevens, Daja Warren, Isaiah Henderson;* ***Back row:*** *Justyn Jones, Jordan Barksdale, Benjamin Brayfield, Maurice Morgan, Alberto Velasco, Leila Tape.* ***Not Pictured:*** *Jevonte Williams, Arianna Chatman, Malachi Williams, Kristopher Serrato, Jairius Hayden, Beau'shay Armstead Jr.,Montral Lee, Christina Smith, Faith Hunter, Zachary Martin, Jordan Martin, Leah Sams.*

Intermediate Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: *Daveon Thomas, Giovani Feliciano, Xavier Martinez-Scott, Mr. Danielson, Kelli Thomas, Jade Hamilton, Isatou Samba;* ***Second row:*** *Zion Middlebrooks, Jaylen Glass, Sidney Holmes, Jacob Weber, Sebastian Diaz, Jacob Dockins, Elliott Ruffin;* ***Back row:*** *Javon Madams, Eric Kendrick Jr., Rackesh Ragoo, Yantre Edwards, Angelique Woods, Kristen Semmes.*

Jazz Band

Director: Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: *Matthew Spicknall, Kaja Sims, Devin Hence, Annie Castleberry, Maurice Morgan Jr., Cameron Figueroa;* ***Second row:*** *Caleb Hiller, Samaria Patrick, Gregory Romeo, Kayla Josleyn, Antonio Cruz, Janae McFerrin;* ***Third row:*** *Serena Thormann, Nana Asabere, Gerald Akujobi Jr., Joshua Kirksey, Benjamin Brayfield, Sabrina Thormann, Angelica Knox;* ***Back row:*** *Isaac Graham, Bryan Sobczak, Sidney Holmes, Vincente Altieri, Mr. Danielson; Back row: Alberto Velasco, Giovani Feliciano, Xavier Madera, Jansen Tan. Not pictured: Kristyn Evelyn, Ashanti Castleberry, Derrick Jones III, Cheyenne Figueroa, Maria Tan.*

Advanced Orchestra

Director: Ms. Diane Rosenthal

Front row: *Aleecia Niezgoda, William Smith, Briyauna McNeal, Justin Hinton, Breonna Baggett, Steffan Santiago, Emily DeCausemaker, Torian Bryant, Morgan Brinker, Isobel Collins, Matthew Spicknall;* ***Second row:*** *Madison Bullock, Cheyenne Figueroa, Shaina Williams, Kathleen Aton, Ms. Rosenthal, Grettel Peralta, Chadryne Tamo, Christian Luckett, Alisha Mongold, Anya Johnson;* ***Third row:*** *Timoya Bryant, JaKobe Edmond, Dulce Cuazitl, Cecilia Irizarry, Rosario Contreras, David Rosa, Ivelisse Taylor, Cryst'n Morgan, Tatiana Peters, Jhonae' Garmon, Max Moore, Lauren Pryle;* ***Back row:*** *Lauren Stanley, Brook Shelton, Willow Johnson, Megan Mays, Kayla Miller, Hannah Duran, Kyle Noonan, Antonio Cruz, Fabienne Laurisch, Mahqueese McMillan, Joseph Harris II.*

Intermediate Orchestra

Director: Ms. Diane Rosenthal

Front row: *Damari Ramos, Asia Gray, Ty'Kia Jones, Justin Kiel, Lloyd James;* ***Second row:*** *Stephanie Puente, Taelor Hill, Viviana Lagunas, Jacqueline Flores, Elisha Cooper, Angela Pejovski, Moriah Jones, Elizabeth Reyes, Amari Pryor, Tori Holst, Cheyenne Roberts;* ***Third row:*** *Nadia Jones, Jordan Kincade, Kristah Royster, Gabrielle Schindler, Rachel McChristian, Monique Guydon, SanTana Southall, Melissa Gutierrez, Kiyah Walker, Camille Walls, Heather Osorio, Lauren Moody, Imani Butts, Ms. Rosenthal;* ***Back row:*** *Miller Blackwell, Terry Sabbath. Jasmin Creal, Nijaia Jones, Jordan Holmes, Darrel Glass II, Annalise Saul, Tavia Campbell, Tatyanah Cross, Jakailyn Aaron, Madison Blackwell, Brandon Scott.* ***Not pictured:*** *Justin Turner, Ronald Woods, Deion Charleston.*

Beginning Orchestra

Director: Ms. Diane Rosenthal

First row: *Joshua Brooks, Jason Daniel, Diego DeLa Cruz, Nathan Mendoza, Itzel Munoz, Kaitlin Raddatz, Ashyah Perry, Donmeique Yates, Ariana Booker, Jeremiah Williams;* ***Second row:*** *Robert Hasan, Aiyauna Riley, Maria Guardiola, Gabriela Aponte, Ms.Rosenthal, Abigail Smith, Sadia Hildebrand, Kaylee Conner, Korey Parker;* ***Third row:*** *Chasity Irizarry, Jennifer Bugarin, Natalie Ordonez, Brooklyn Chilcott, Aminah Samba, Jacqueline Velasco, Royale Miller, Lauren Young, Margaret Wujek, Kayla Alcox, Cristian Gutierrez, Joshua Lopez, Sara Laurain, Javonne Spivey;* ***Back row:*** *Enrique Ortiz, Mason Martisauskas, Matt Makarowski, Desiree Alleyne, Mikayla Lemons, Alexandria Murphy, Ma'Kayla Mays, Patience Lyles, Deonna Bowens, Kennedy Waller, Reiana Thomas- Marquez, Eric Hollowell, Brian Dilosa Jr., Jaylen Jones, Sierra Ward. Not Pictured: Autumn Bainbridge.*

Intermediate Orchestra

Director: Ms. Diane Rosenthal

Front row: *Damari Ramos, Asia Gray, Ty'Kia Jones, Justin Kiel, Lloyd James;* ***Second row:*** *Stephanie Puente, Taelor Hill, Viviana Lagunas, Jacqueline Flores, Elisha Cooper, Angela Pejovski, Moriah Jones, Elizabeth Reyes, Amari Pryor, Tori Holst, Cheyenne Roberts;* ***Third row:*** *Nadia Jones, Jordan Kincade, Kristah Royster, Gabrielle Schindler, Rachel McChristian, Monique Guydon, SanTana Southall, Melissa Gutierrez, Kiyah Walker, Camille Walls, Heather Osorio, Lauren Moody, Imani Butts, Ms. Rosenthal;* ***Back row:*** *Miller Blackwell, Terry Sabbath, Jasmin Creal, Nijaia Jones, Jordan Holmes, Darrel Glass II, Annalise Saul, Tavia Campbell, Tatyanah Cross, Jakailyn Aaron, Madison Blackwell, Brandon Scott. Not pictured: Justin Turner, Ronald Woods, Deion Charleston.*

Advanced Choir

Sponsor: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart
Front row: *Cynthia Hindmon, Jasmine Jaramillo, John Grace Jr., Ferdinand Aton, Brian Moore, Trenton Hutch, Kiariah Carter, Cara Blanford;* ***Second row:*** *Aniya Edwards, Kailey Walaszek, Keith Barnard, JaKobe Wilbon, Tyler Russell, Justin Smith, Angel Collins, Najalynn Chandler;* ***Third row:*** *Mia Godfrey, Jaia Montgomery, Devin Pope, Lucas Reinhart, Christian Glover, Jiah Massie, Nicole Hollowell, Yolanda Lewis-Kelly;* ***Back row:*** *Kylah Nicholson, Nikita Weaver, Courtni Williams, Kaila Buggs, Ronald Brewer, Devyn Williams, Cherise' Higgins, Danielle LeGrand; Not pictured: Eelecia Garron, Yancy Tyler, Tyreak Thomas, Jasmine Martinez-Santa, Cardalina Hernandez.*

Girls' Glee – Notables
Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart
Front row: *Tia Travis, Delilah Barajas, Gabrelle Lobins, Cierra Hernandez, Joslyn Munoz, Maja Pejovski, Lorena Carbajal, Ja'Leah Walker;* ***Second row:*** *Adrianna Carter, Caroline Buckrop, Samaria Price, Marissa Broom, Caitlin Perosky, Kendra Turner, Serena Roldan, Arianna Jarrett, Amaya Butler, Aneia Williams;* ***Third row:*** *Lavader Tiney, Sade' Daniel, Moriah Madkins, Armani Smith, Faye Valadez, Taijah Smith, Kha'Deidra Gilbert, Jailene Perez, Elaiza Araiza;* ***Back row:*** *Briany Wagner, Corrin Haughee, Caitlynne Vickerstaff, Milanka Newell, Taylashe Ferguson, Annalise Holmes, Cecilia Adams, Arielle Lackey.*

Intermediate Choir 1
Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart
Front row: *Medina Griffin, Shianne Woods, Asia Maynor, Alexis Smith, Klimentina Pejovski, Leia Mesarch, Kayla Parkham, Anjil Vazquez, Erica Serros;* ***Second row:*** *Kaylah Johnson, Sierra Harris, Noah Harris, Michael Johnson, Le'Brone Phillips, Gabriel Macapagal, Braden Worthington, Sabrina Lopez, Heaven Tomlinson, Czaria Freeman;* ***Third row:*** *Brianna Ward, Autumn Kiser, Xavier King, George Perosky, Jordan Munchenburg, Maleek Cole, Azjanae Cruz, Jordyn Bates, Ma'Kaela Patterson, Nora Jones;* ***Back row:*** *Kiera Williams, Te'Reyah Gaines, Savannah Shirley, Dennis Weston, Kadari Exson, Trayvon Cargo, Nikola Djukic, Brandon Shelton, Raeanne Davila, Sasha Dailey, Naomi Fields, Anjel Highbaugh.*

Voices of Reason
Director: Mrs. Melinda Reinhart
Front row: *Justin Smith, Nikita Weaver, Alyssia Whiteside;* ***Back row:*** *Ronald Brewer, Tyreak Thomas, John Grace Jr., Jordan Munchenburg.*

Stopping
MERRILLVILLE
19

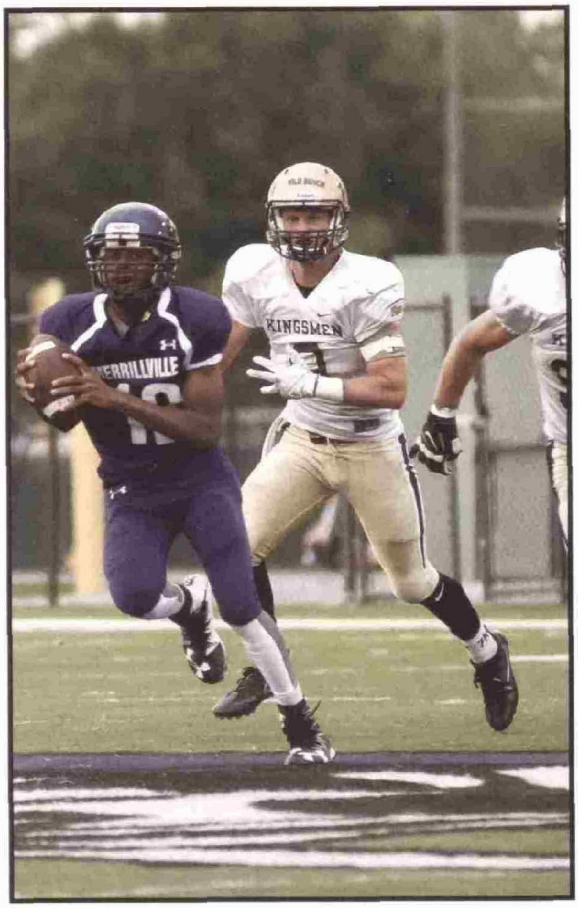
to play

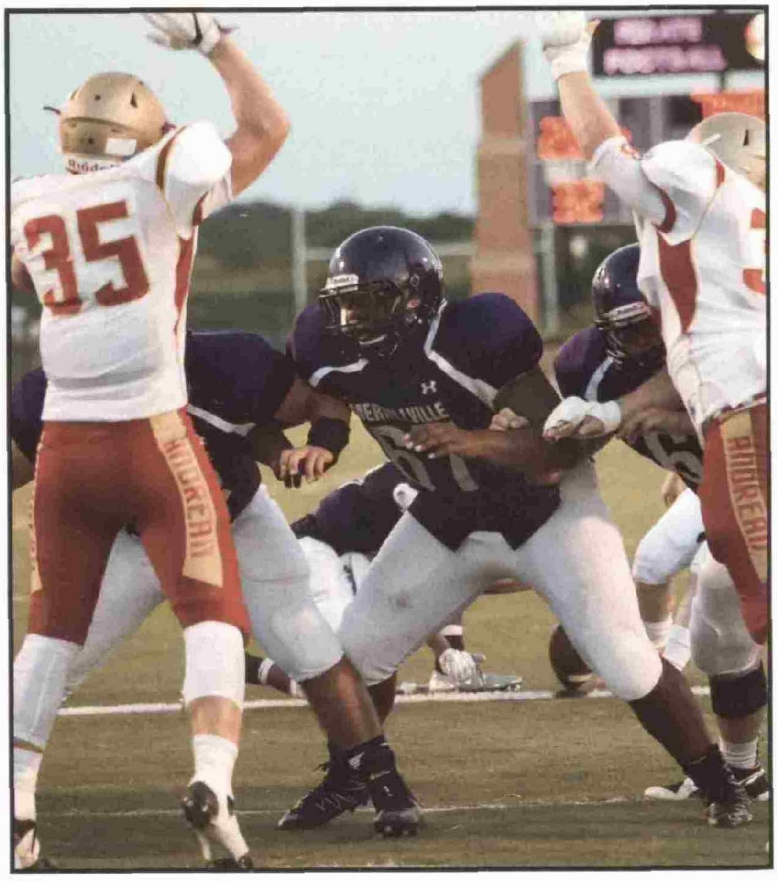
Before the home game at Demaree Stadium, Seniors Kameron Jackson (19) and Ivan Cook Jr. (13) lead their football teammates as they take the field together. "All I could think about was to attack. We have to attack to win," Jackson said. "We have to give it our all."

After he receives the ball from a reverse play, wide receiver Senior Kaylin Brookshire (15) stiff-arms a Penn tackle. "Knowing the history of us playing Penn, I wasn't really intimidated," Brookshire said. "But I was very aware for what could come and I respected every aspect of the game." As soon as he had the ball in his hands, Brookshire said he felt like he had to get the touchdown so he wouldn't let his team down. During the regular season, Brookshire had 13 catches, 203 yards rushing and 3 touchdowns.

After he catches an interception, cornerback Senior Kenyatta Smith (5) runs up the sideline to avoid getting tackled. "I was actually surprised he actually threw the ball my way," Smith said. "But I saw my opportunity to get a pick, so I had to take it." Before every game, Smith said he tries to focus on being an animal on the field and scare everyone on his side. Smith had 3 interceptions, 1 forced fumble, 9 pass breakups and 32 tackles during the regular season.

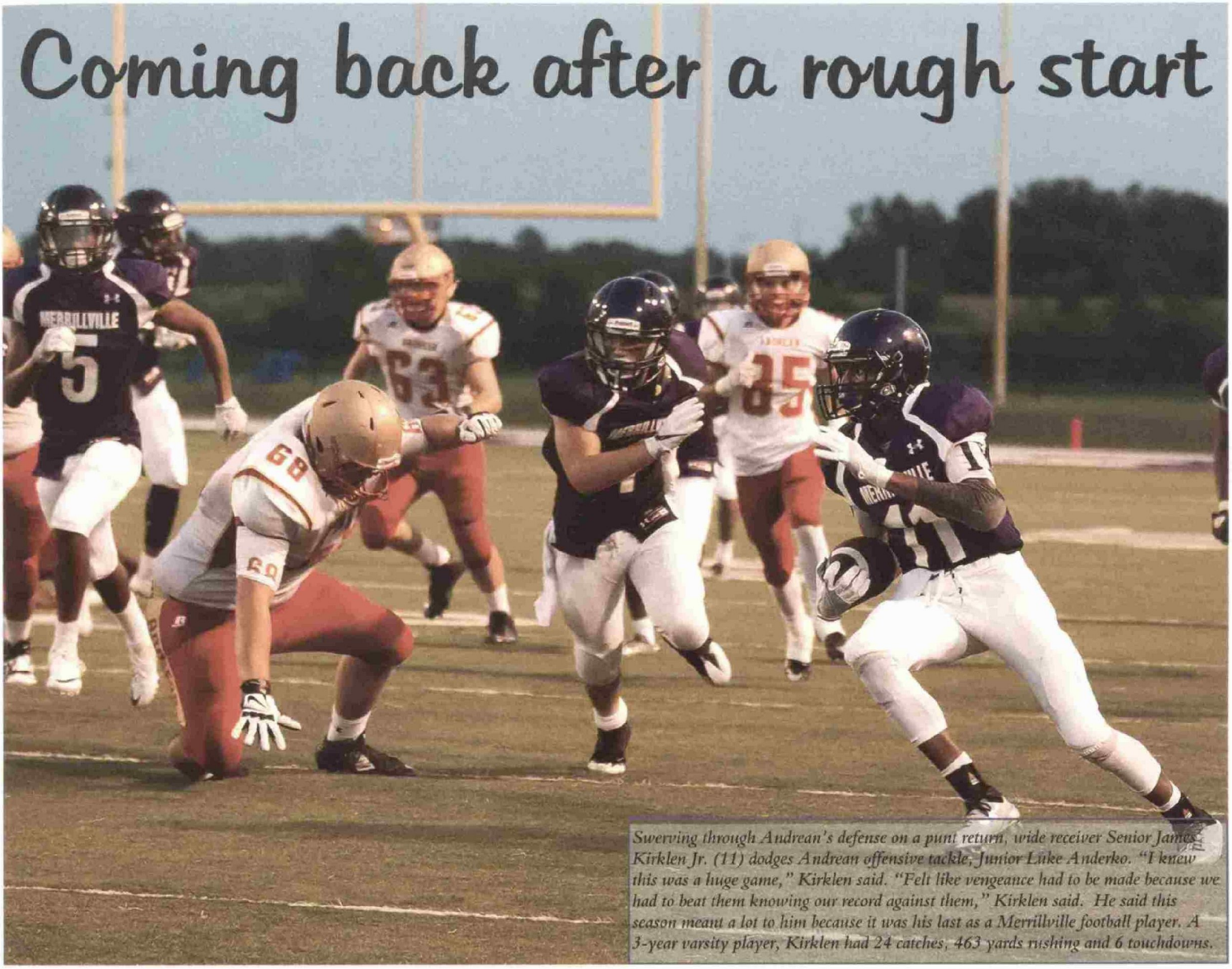
With eyes on his receiver, quarterback Sophomore Cameron Wright (12) avoids the Penn defenders. "No matter the pressure, I always give it my all and try to make sure all my brothers stay safe on the field," Wright said. Wright said his confidence was high even though it was a big game and this was his first year on varsity. As a sophomore quarterback, Wright had 1,340 throwing yards and 11 successful touchdowns.





Watching his Andrean defender (35), offensive guard Senior Jay'lon Gordon (67) blocks for his kicker. "My main goal is to make sure no one gets to Meagan Wise and that she can make the field goal easy," Gordon said. For the first time since 2012, Merrillville beat Andrean 35-7. Gordon was a returning two-year starter.

Coming back after a rough start



Swerving through Andrean's defense on a punt return, wide receiver Senior James Kirklen Jr. (11) dodges Andrean offensive tackle, Junior Luke Anderko. "I knew this was a huge game," Kirklen said. "Felt like vengeance had to be made because we had to beat them knowing our record against them," Kirklen said. He said this season meant a lot to him because it was his last as a Merrillville football player. A 3-year varsity player, Kirklen had 24 catches, 463 yards rushing and 6 touchdowns.

Wise makes football history

For the first time in Merrillville football history, the Pirates suited up a female kicker, Junior Meagan Wise (10). Wise said she felt nervous before her first practice.

"It was very scary at first because I didn't know how the team would feel about having a female on the team. Once I got to my first practice, the guys were very welcoming towards me."

Junior Meagan Wise

Wise said her strategy was to make sure she was positioned correctly and remain confident.

"My first game was nerve-racking," Wise said. "I just tried to cancel everything out and didn't focus on the crowd screaming."

Wise said she was confident in her ability to kick, and that her only worry was if the snaps were not directly on target.

Wise's parents were also confident in her ability.

"My parents were very supportive about it," Wise said. "They made me know that anything is possible and that the coaches chose me for a reason."

Wise said her father was the happiest about her decision because he got to see his child suit up on Friday nights.

"He's really happy he gets to come see one of his children play on Friday nights," Wise said. "He loves high school football so much, and being able to see his daughter out there playing just makes it even better."

Wise said that coming into her first football season far exceeded her expectations.

"I never thought I would ever be on a football team and be good at," Wise said. "But it's the best thing I've ever done."

Football

Opponent	Win/ Loss	Score
Andrean	W	35-7
Penn	L	35-2
Crown Point	W	41-28
Portage	W	20-14
Michigan City	L	42-35
LaPorte	L	46-35
Valparaiso	L	20-15
Lake Central	L	23-7
Chesterton	W	34-13
Sectional		
Portage	W	22-21
Crown Point	L	24-19

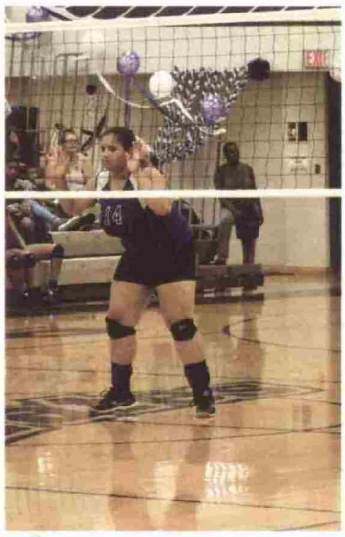
Season Record

5-6

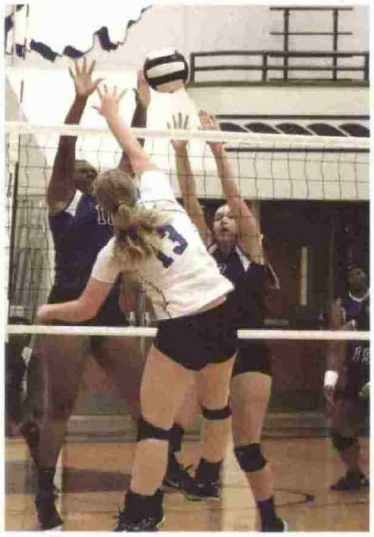
Building a tighter bond

Digging for a hit, Senior JayLynn Hardrick prepares for a return with Junior Alexis Ramos ready to spot her. "Team chemistry is good because we have been playing together since freshman year," Hardrick said. She said that one of the strengths of the team is passing communication, but there is still progress to be made. Hardrick is 47 for 63 in digs for the season.

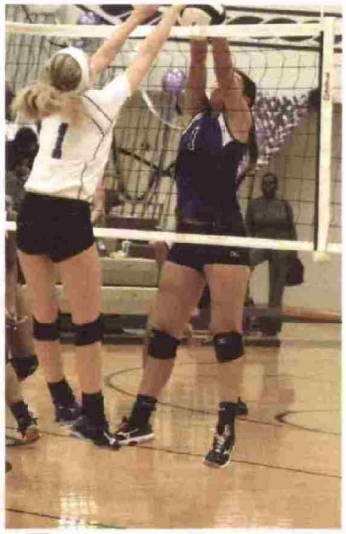
Steps to blocking the opponent



1 *Find the opponent's hitter and line up with her.*



2 *Watch the hitter's arm swing.*



3 *Jump with arms up and hands wide.*

Volleyball

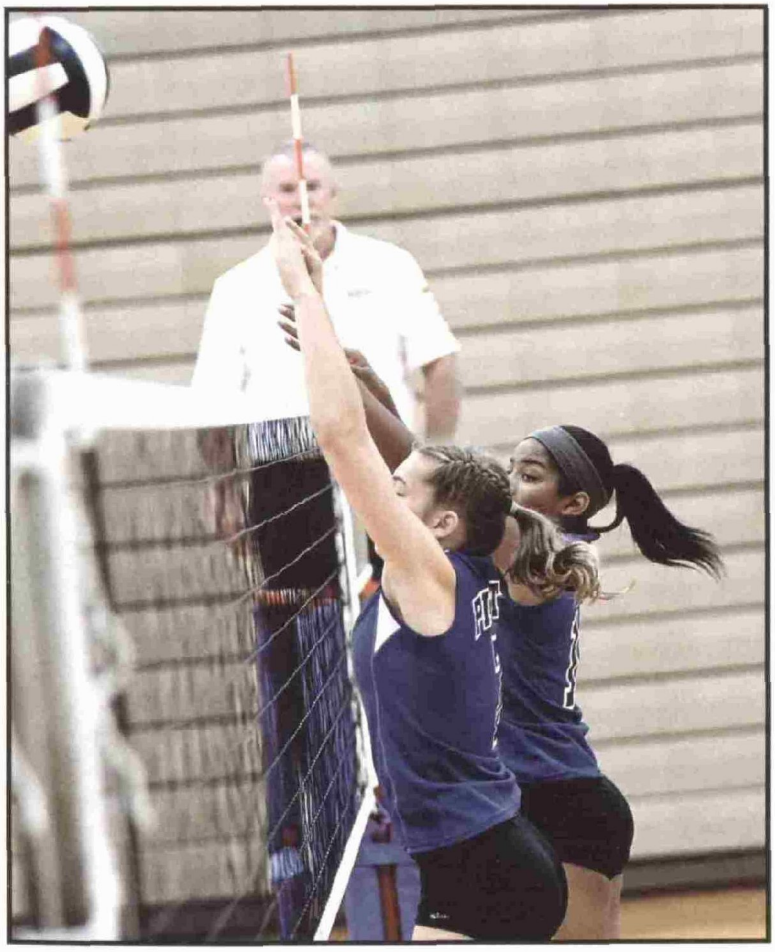
Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Griffith	W	3-1
Lowell	L	3-0
LaPorte Tourney		1 for 3
Andrean	L	3-0
Portage	L	3-0
Hobart	L	3-0
Michigan City	L	3-0
Valparaiso	L	3-0
Kankakee Valley Classic		1 for 3
LaPorte	L	3-0
Lake Central	L	3-0
Chesterton	L	3-0
Washington Township	W	3-2
Crown Point	L	3-0
Wheeler	L	3-0
Portage	L	3-0
Michigan City	L	3-0
Valparaiso	L	3-0
LaPorte	L	3-0
Bishop Noll	L	3-0
Lake Central	L	3-0
Hanover Central	L	3-0
Chesterton	L	3-0
Crown Point	L	3-0
Sectional		
Valparaiso	L	3-0

Season Record

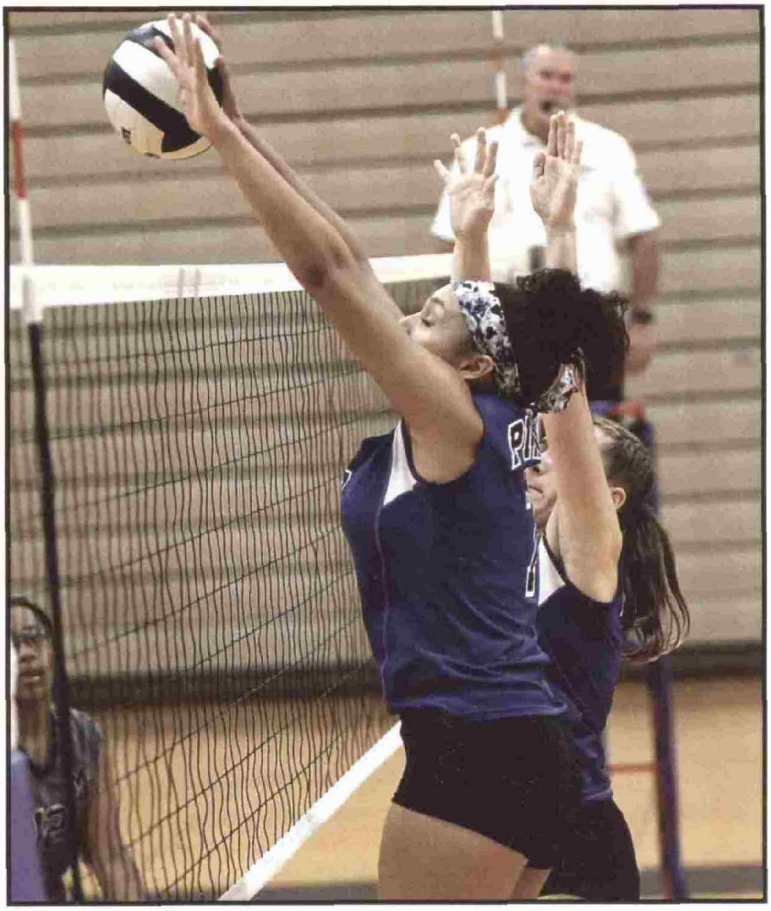
4-25

With arms out in front of her, Sophomore Jermani' Keys prepares to pass the ball with Junior Emily Lesich right behind her to help. "My goals for the season are to get better at communication and get better digs on hits," Keys said. Keys had an average of 63 percent for attempted digs for the season.

As Senior Torian Bryant provides support, Sophomore Olivia Stevens sets herself up for a block from the opposing team. "My goal for the season is to become more aggressive on the court and get up for blocks in time," Stevens said. During the season, Stevens had 41 blocks and said her plans are to become more aggressive.

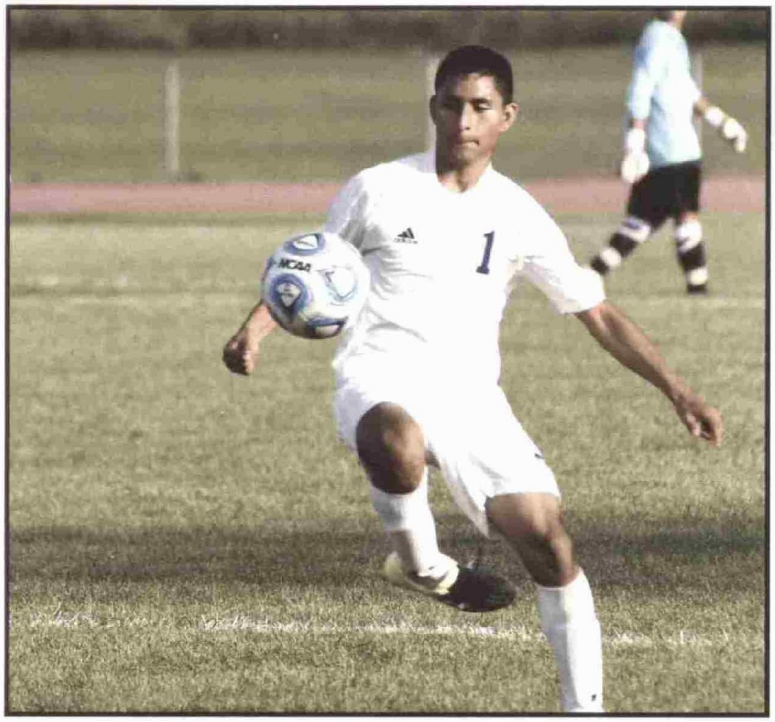


During Senior Night, Senior Angela Toomer walks to the center court with her parents. "I want to go to college to study sports medicine," Toomer said. She said that she wants to become an athletic trainer for a sports team. As a returning senior, Toomer was 29 for 55 in dig attempts and said her goal is to become better every day.

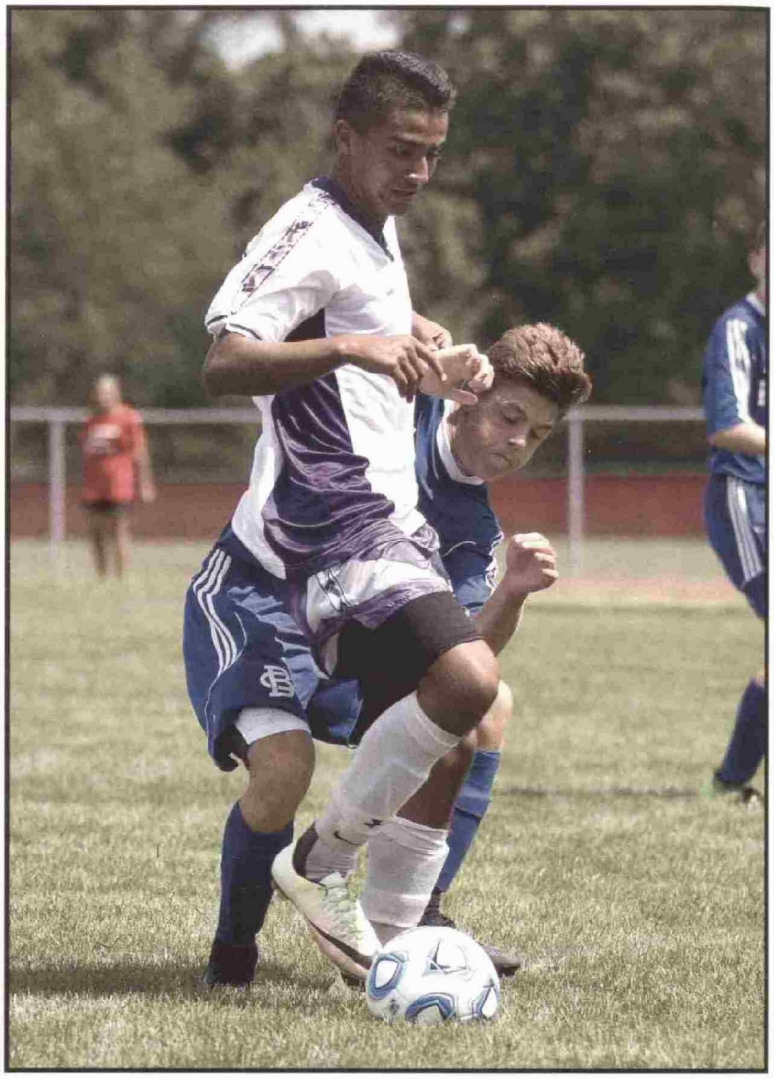


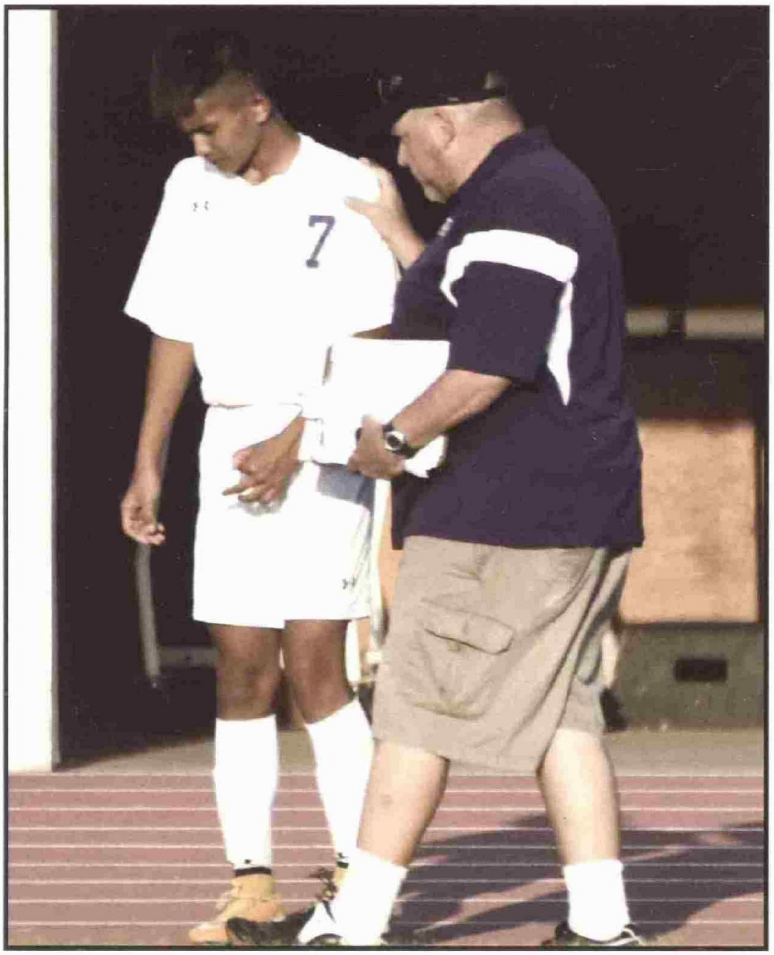
On defense, Junior Shelby Harmon extends her arms straight up to block the ball. "The season so far has been pretty rough, but we are all getting along very well," Harmon said. Despite the ongoing competition, Harmon said that she and the rest of the team never lose focus. Harmon has 21 blocks for the season.

With the ball in the air, man-marker Junior Daniel Barajas (1) prepares to make a pass. "We worked on our skills and are becoming better as a team," Barajas said. Barajas started for varsity as a defensive player and helped improve a defense that only gave up 57 goals compared to last year's 88 goals.

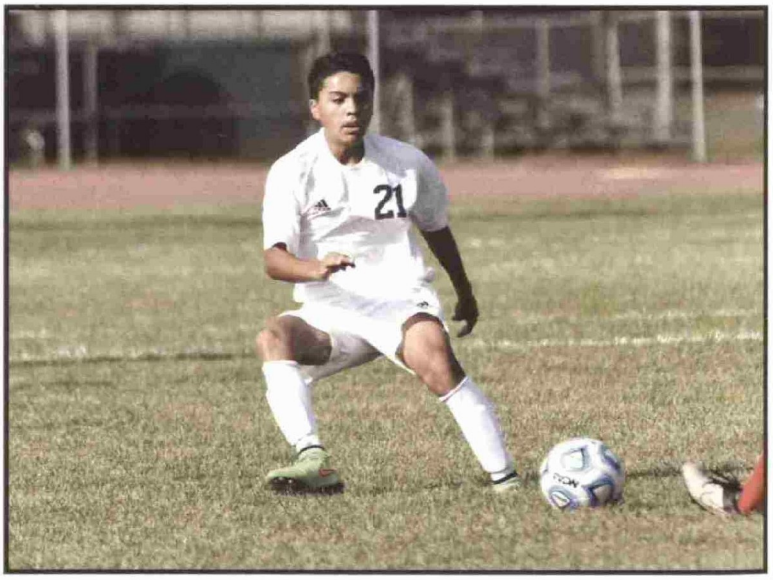


Focused on the ball, offensive mid-fielder Senior Oscar Hernandez (10) shields off the opponent. "My biggest job is distributing the ball to my teammates so they can make a goal," Hernandez said. Hernandez was selected as a First Team All-District player for District One. Only 16 field players make the first team.





On the sidelines, left mid-fielder Sophomore Masayoshi Nangin (7) listens to Head Coach Brian Past. "Coach Past tells me to play wide, get my feet all the way to the sidelines and look for passes," Nangin said. Coach Past said that Nangin has great endurance due to his participation in three different sports. Nangin scored one goal and one assist during the season.



Leaning back, mid-fielder Freshman Jacob Maldonado (21) receives the ball. "We (the JV team) won 3-1 against Portage," Maldonado said. "It was our first win of the season." Maldonado said he stays balanced, aware and ready when he receives the ball. Head Coach Brian Past said that Maldonado has an intelligent understanding of the game and is "extremely coachable." Midway through the season, Maldonado become a full-time varsity player and lead the team with five assists.

Boys bounce back

With arms outstretched in front of him, goalie Junior Alexander Navarro (0) dives for the ball. "Any good goalie can dive and catch the ball. Only a great goalie can get back up after getting scored on," Navarro said. As a goalie, Navarro said he stays on his toes and uses his whole body when saving a ball. He decreased his goals against average from 4.9 last season to 3.0 this season.

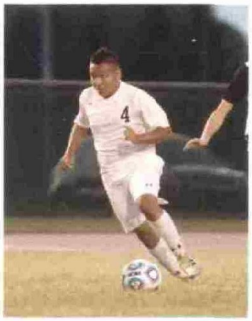
Boys' Soccer

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage	L	5-3
Andrean	L	2-0
LaPorte	L	2-0
Kankakee Valley	W	3-2
Chesterton	L	5-1
Hoosier Cup		1 for 3
Valparaiso	L	2-0
Munster	L	5-1
Michigan City	L	2-0
Lowell	W	3-1
Crown Point	L	6-0
West Lafayette	L	4-0
Lake Central	L	7-0
Gavit	W	7-0
Hobart	L	2-1
Sectional		
Lowell	W	4-2
Crown Point	L	5-1

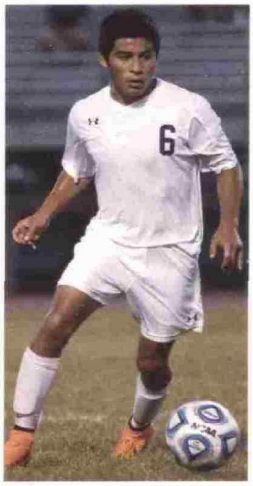
Season Record

5-14

Season Memories

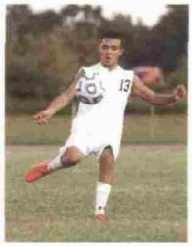


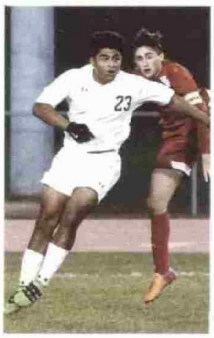
"Scoring and winning against Kankakee Valley."
Senior
Victor Gutierrez



"When I scored that pk, and I ran up to Coach Past and said, 'That was for you, Brian.'"
Senior
Aaron Corralez

"Making it to the sectional finals."
Senior
Michael De La Peña





"Scoring the only goal in the sectional final."
Junior
Jorge Gaona

On the goal side

With her leg extended in front of her, all around player Junior Reainah Soto (8) attempts a pass at a game against Highland. "Although we didn't win the game, I've been doing better with not getting to myself," Soto said. Soto said that a highlight of the season was their first win against Michigan City. In the regular season, Soto had eight goals and six assists. "She was the most productive player," Head Coach Jeff Fairbairn said.

Girls' Soccer

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage	L	3-1
LaPorte	L	4-2
Highland	L	6-0
Wheeler	L	3-0
Chesterton	L	9-0
Kankakee Valley	L	4-1
Lowell	L	2-1
Valparaiso	L	12-2
Andrean	L	7-1
McCutcheon	L	7-2
Michigan City	W	6-1
Crown Point	L	5-0
Munster	L	6-0
Hanover Central	W	5-1
Lake Central	L	6-0
Hobart	L	5-1
Sectional		
Crown Point	L	9-1

Season Record

2-15

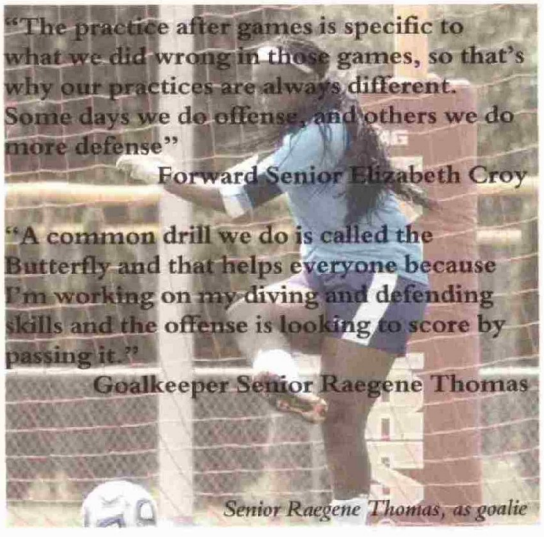
Every Day Drills

"The practice after games is specific to what we did wrong in those games, so that's why our practices are always different. Some days we do offense, and others we do more defense"

Forward Senior Elizabeth Croy

"A common drill we do is called the Butterfly and that helps everyone because I'm working on my diving and defending skills and the offense is looking to score by passing it."

Goalkeeper Senior Raegene Thomas



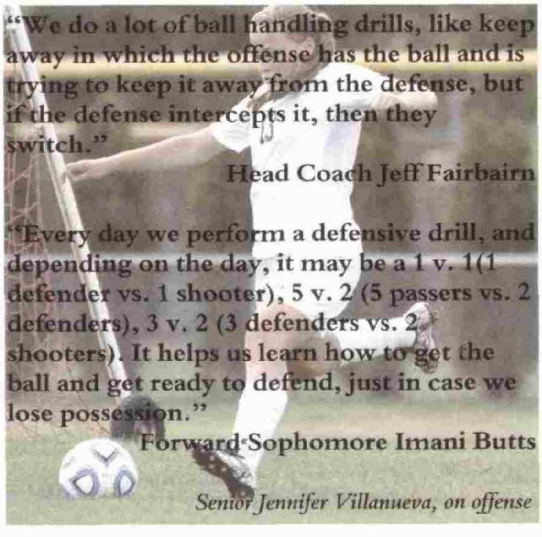
Senior Raegene Thomas, as goalie

"We do a lot of ball handling drills, like keep away in which the offense has the ball and is trying to keep it away from the defense, but if the defense intercepts it, then they switch."

Head Coach Jeff Fairbairn

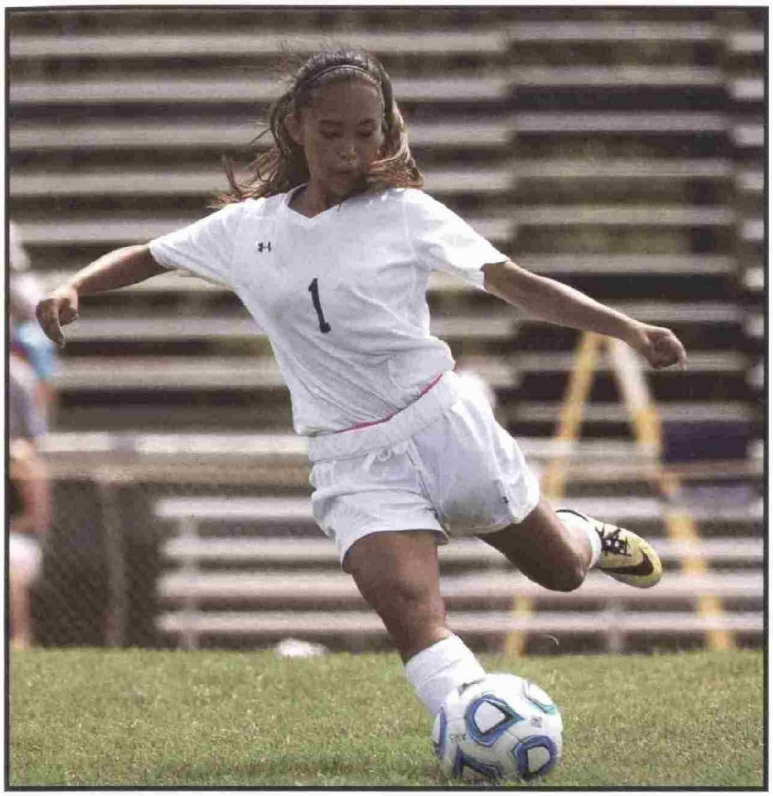
"Every day we perform a defensive drill, and depending on the day, it may be a 1 v. 1(1 defender vs. 1 shooter), 5 v. 2 (5 passers vs. 2 defenders), 3 v. 2 (3 defenders vs. 2 shooters). It helps us learn how to get the ball and get ready to defend, just in case we lose possession."

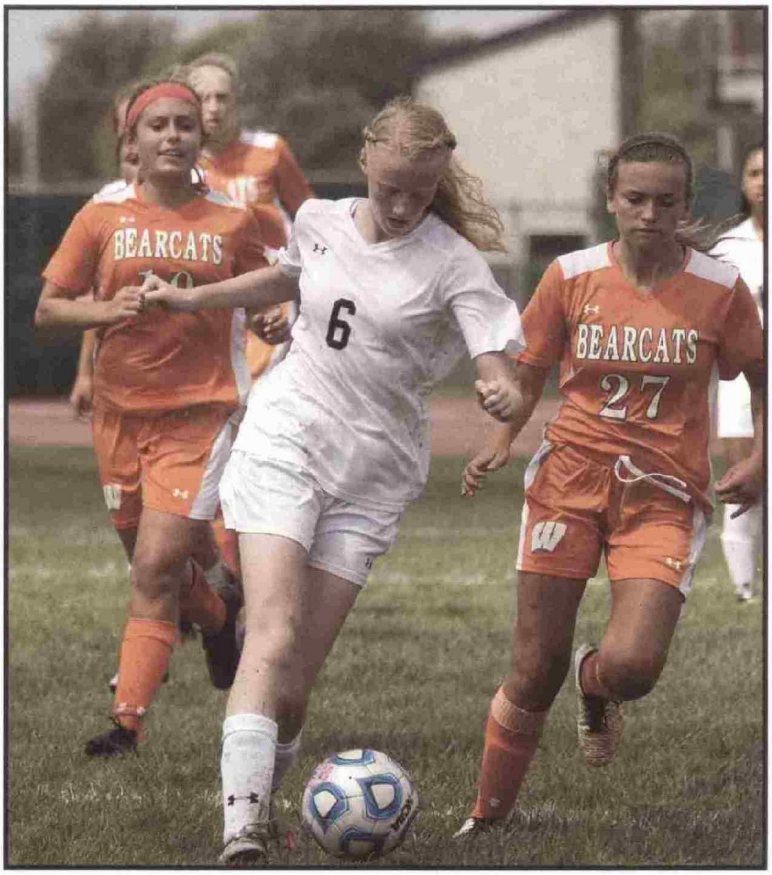
Forward Sophomore Imani Butts



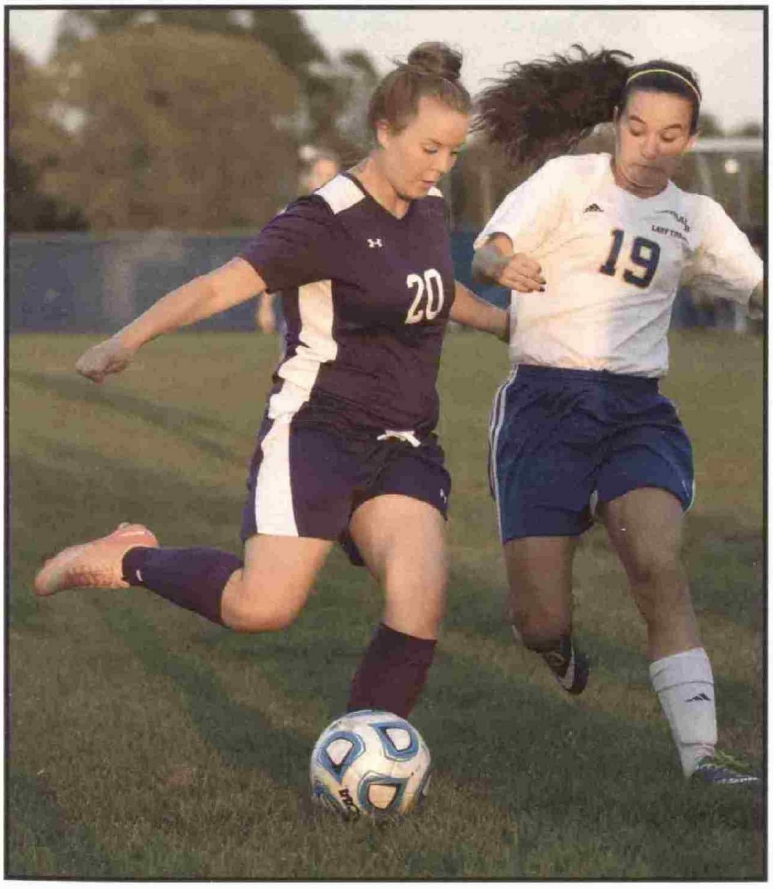
Senior Jennifer Villanueva, on offense

Kicking up the field, midfielder Junior Chadryne Tamo (1) attempts to get the ball to a striker. "My main goal is to make sure the striker gets the ball and gets it in the goal," Tamo said. Tamo said that the Boone Grove Jamboree was one of the most fun games. Tamo had three shots on goal and scored one point during the regular season.

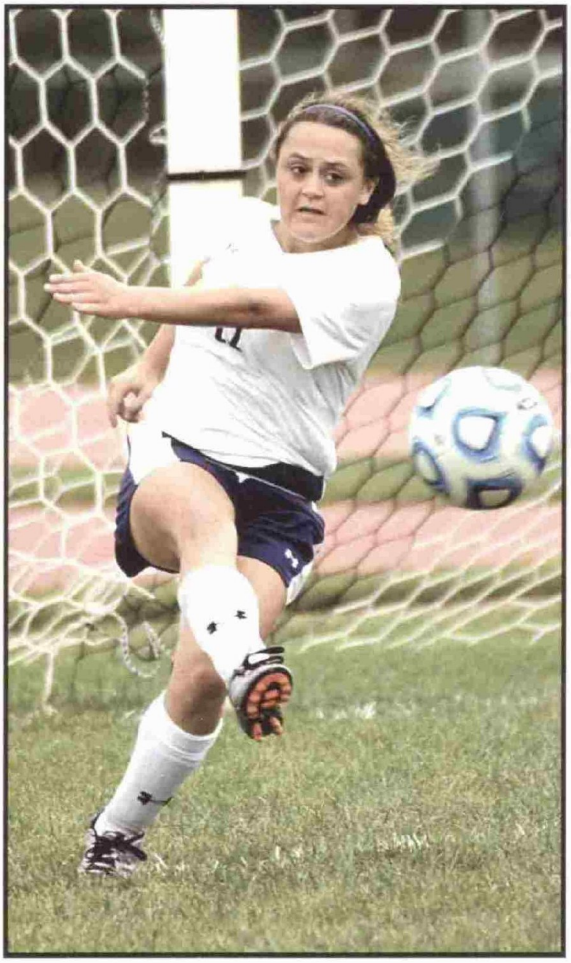




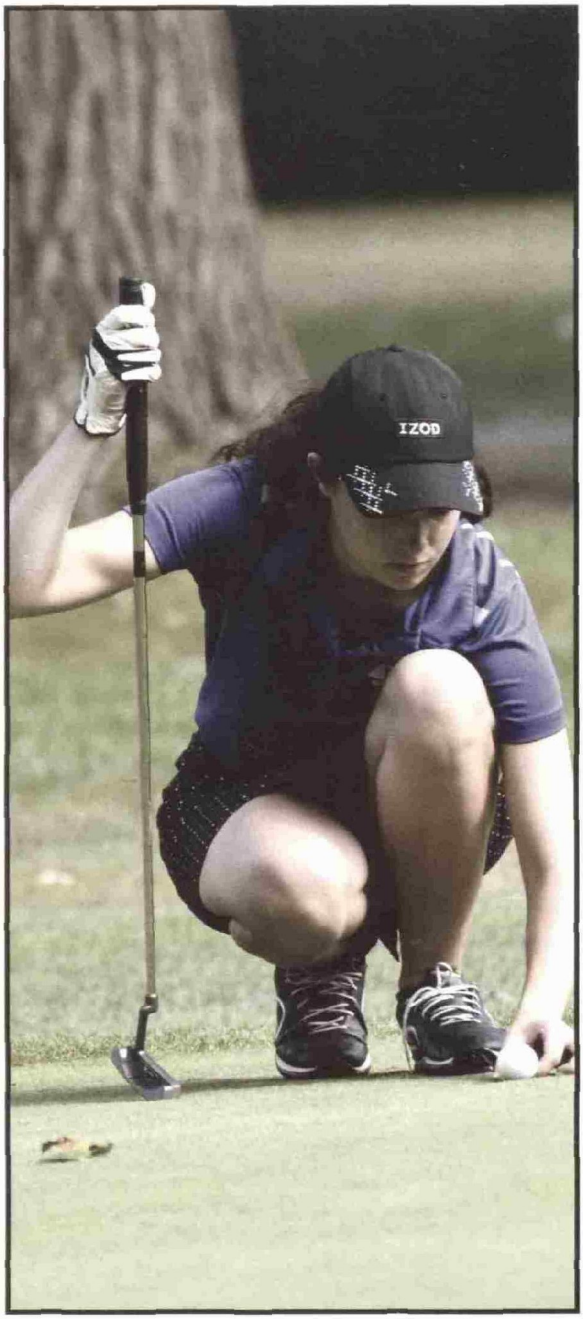
Keeping close to the ball, midfielder Freshman Brisa Sanford (6) goes for a pass. As the only freshman on the varsity team, Sanford said she had to work a little harder than most of the players. "I'm doing better with headers," Sanford said. "I used to be afraid to hit the ball with my head." Sanford had one assist during the regular season.



With her eyes on the ball, forward Junior Sydney Kenner (20) prepares to pass. "I need to improve on skill and work to score more goals," Kenner said. Despite their loss to Highland, Kenner said the team played hard and that the team's overall goal was to improve their communication. Kenner had three shots and one goal in the regular season.

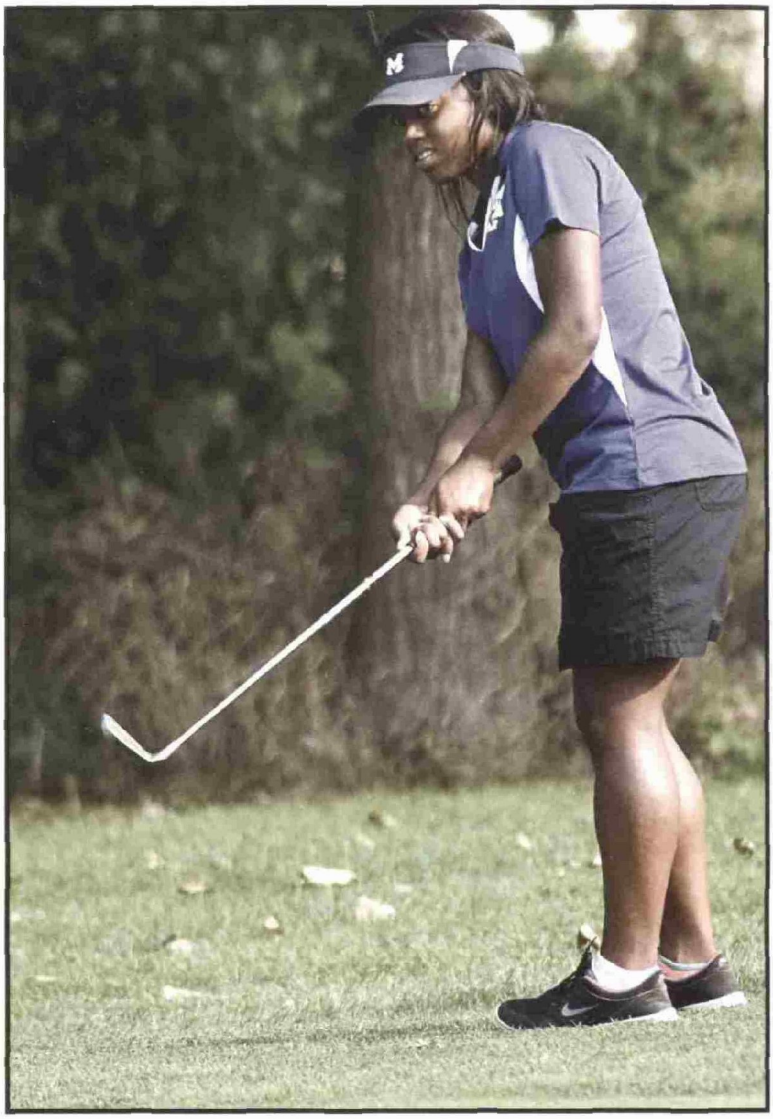


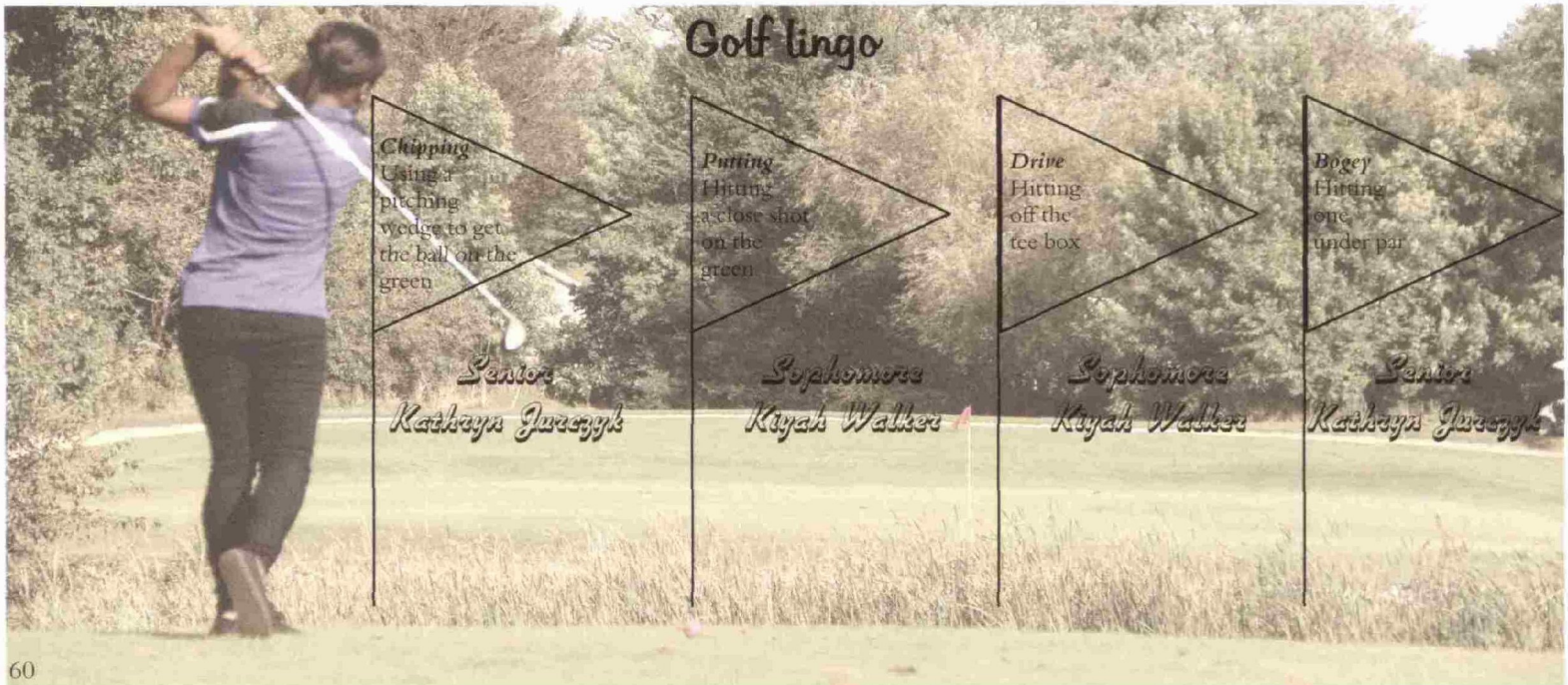
During the game against Kankakee Valley, midfielder Senior Elizabeth Croy boots the ball. "Her biggest contribution was her drive and determination, even through injury, to play her heart out every time she stepped on the field," Assistant Coach Jason Kendera said. Croy had nine goals and three assists during the regular season. "She was instrumental in helping develop some of our younger, inexperienced players," Coach Kendera said.



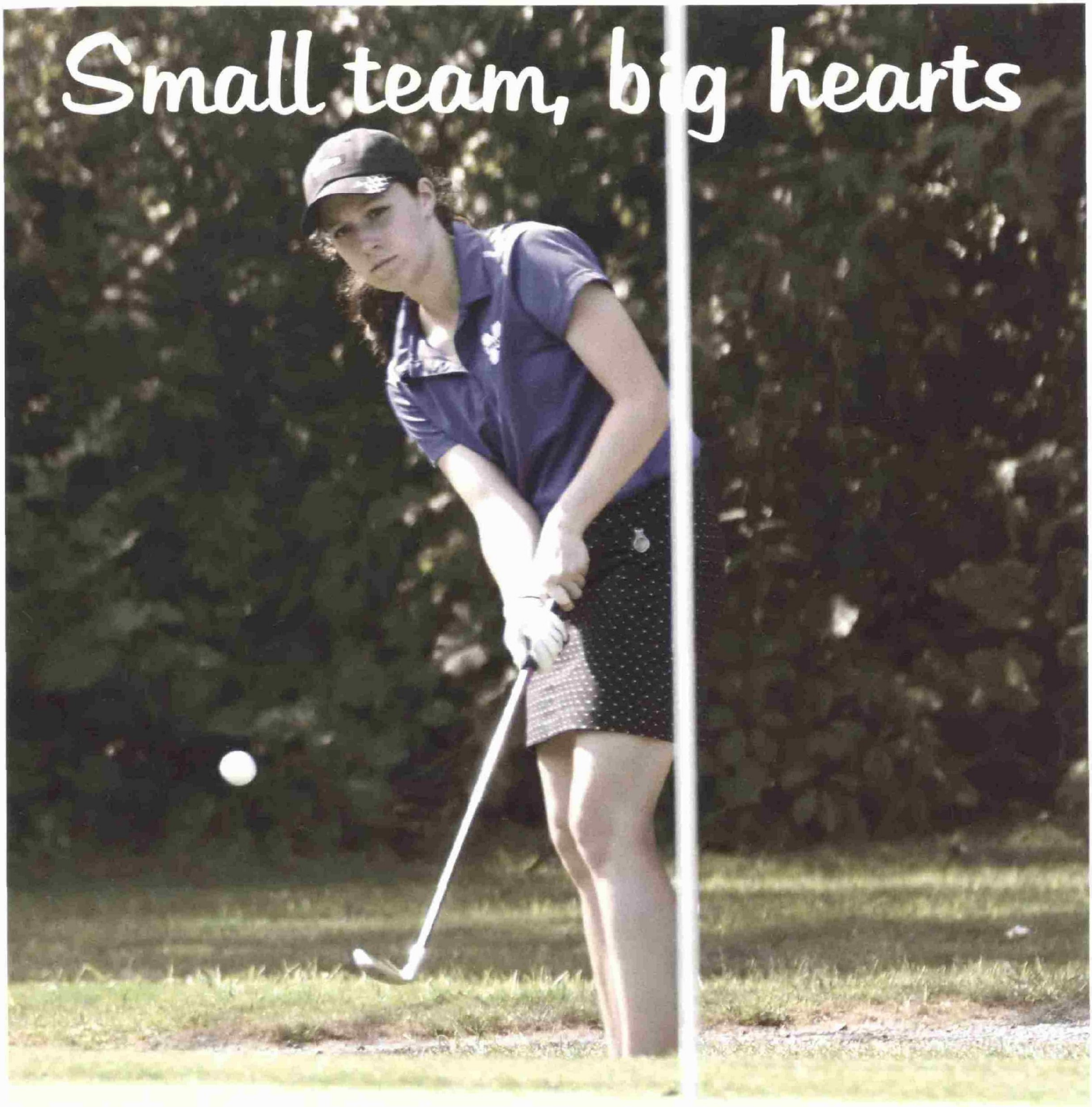
As she eyes the golf ball, Senior Kathryn Jurczyk lines up her shot for the putt. "I felt anxious because putting I am normally good at," Jurczyk said. "I make up for any extra strokes approaching the green." As the season progressed, so did the intensity, but Jurczyk said she was up for the challenge. Jurczyk and Sophomore Kiyah Walker were the two golfers for the 2016 season. "The benefits were having one on one time with the coach at the beginning of the season, and we got to focus on more drills," Jurczyk said.

On the fairway, Sophomore Kiyah Walker lines up her next shot. "I was excited for the beginning of the golf season because I was the only sophomore on the team at the time," Walker said. Her scores improved steadily over the season and Walker said she saw most progress on her putting. "I had a rough time during many matches because I was always put against the best," Walker said. She said the beginning of the season was moderate, until the end when it got more intense.





Small team, big hearts



Using her pitching wedge, Senior Kathryn Jurczyk tries to get closer to the green. "Putting is my strong point," Jurczyk said. The senior golfer said her best low score was a 50 and her favorite course is the Valparaiso Country Club because "it's kept in very good condition."

Determining their success

With both hands on the racket, No. 1 doubles Senior Joseph Harris II returns the serve to his opponent. "This is my senior year, so I would like to leave the underclassmen with the drive to get better," Harris said. Harris said that before every match he relaxes his mind by listening to music.

Tennis Talk

Ace: Not returning a serve to a receiver and the racket not touching the ball, which results in losing a point.
No. 1 Doubles Terry Sabbath
Mix: When a player stumbles because the opponent misses the ball.
No. 1 Doubles Terry Sabbath
Slice: Putting a back spin on the ball so that when it lands it comes back toward the net.
No. 1 Doubles Deion Charleston Jr.
Serve: A shot to start the point. A player will hit the ball so it will fall into the opposite service box without being stopped by the net.
No. 1 Doubles Joseph Harris II
Rally: Consecutive hits between two opposing teams or players
No. 2 Doubles Joseph Harris II
Kick serve: During a serve, you jump a little and kick out to get spin on the ball.
No. 1 and No. 2 Doubles Marcus Miller

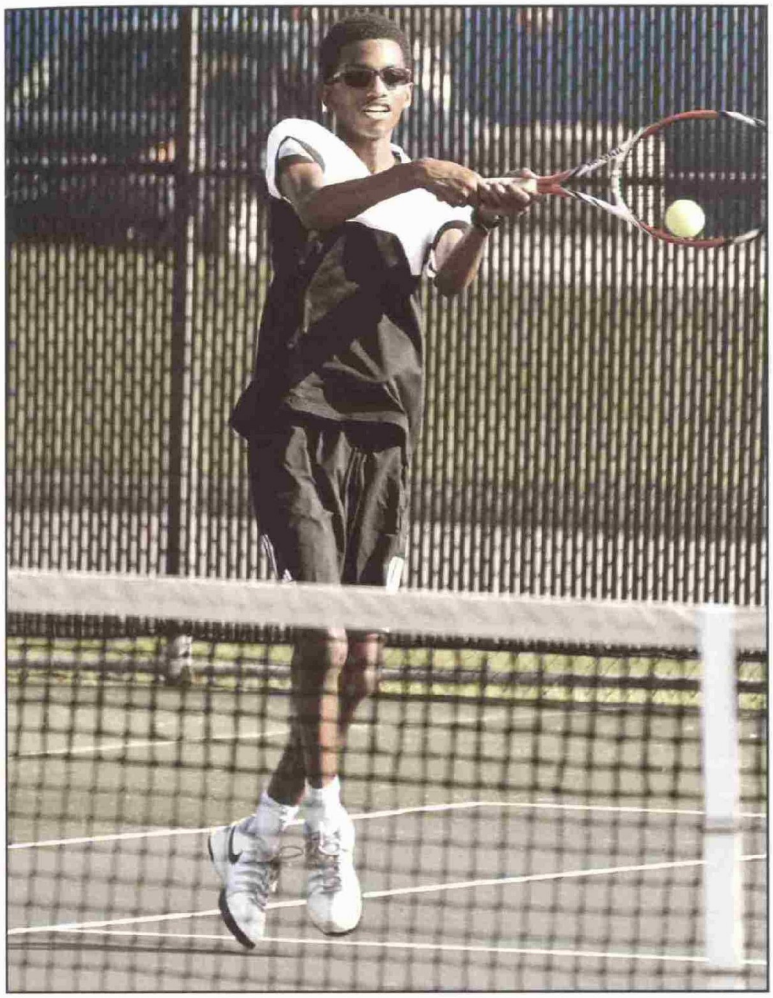
Boys' Tennis

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Kankakee Valley	W	5-0
Highland	W	3-2
Wheeler	L	3-2
Crown Point	L	4-1
LaPorte	L	3-2
Portage	L	4-1
Michigan City	W	3-2
Chesterton	L	5-0
Lake Central	L	5-0
Hobart	L	3-2
Valparaiso	L	5-0
Lowell	L	4-1
Sectional		
Hammond Academy	W	5-0
Hobart	L	3-2

Season Record

4-10

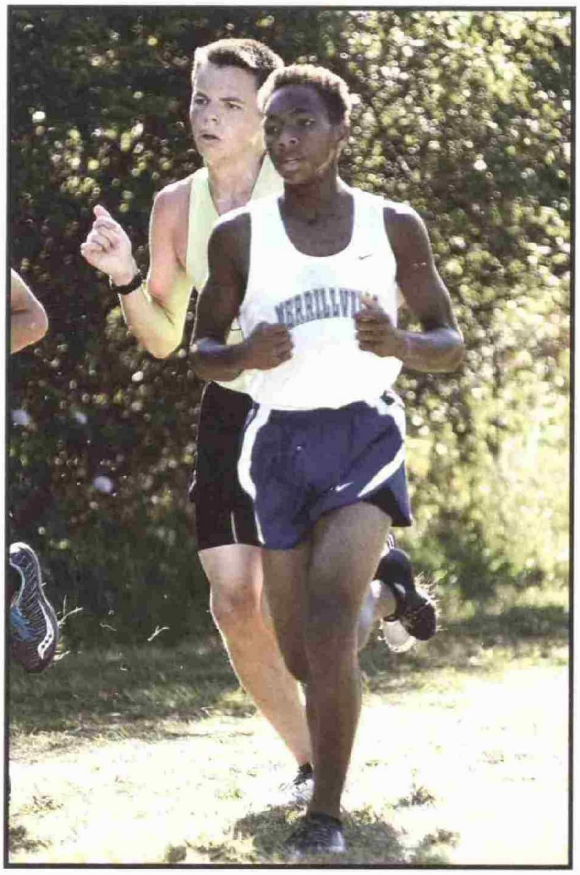
Using his backhand swing, No. 2 singles Junior D'Angelo Brown locks his eyes on the other side of the court. "Dubstep and watching anime videos get me calm before my matches," Brown said. Brown said that his favorite part about the game is when he scores a winning hit.



Hitting a volley, No. 1 doubles Senior Deion Charleston goes for the winning point. "My goal for this year is to get my team to regionals by putting my all into every match I play," Charleston said. After advancing to individual sectionals, Charleston and Senior Terry Jamal Sabbath won the first round but lost the second round to Lake Central.

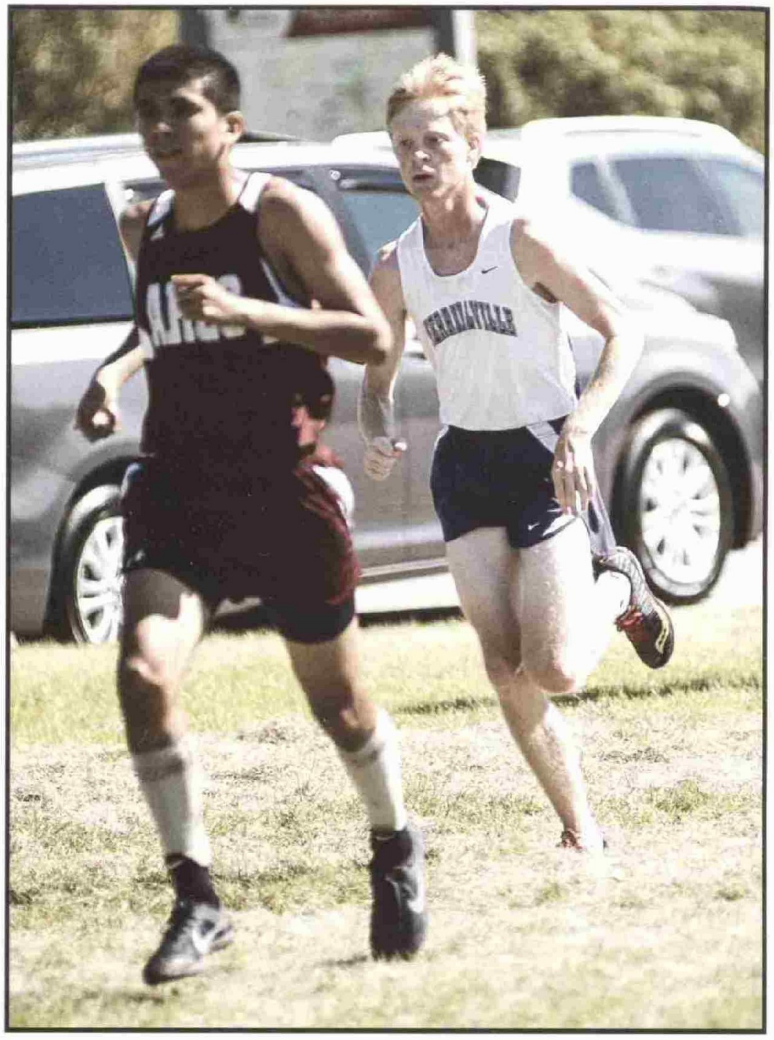
As he receives the ball back up the court, No.1 singles Senior Ayron Williams prepares to swing. "I was trying to set the point up so I can put the ball away," Williams said.

With his eyes on the ball, No. 3 singles Junior Keith Rochefort Jr. uses the backhand lobbing technique to volley the ball back across the court. "My motto for each match is to try my hardest and don't give up," Rochefort said. Rochefort said that to get into the zone for each match, he practices and plays mini tennis.

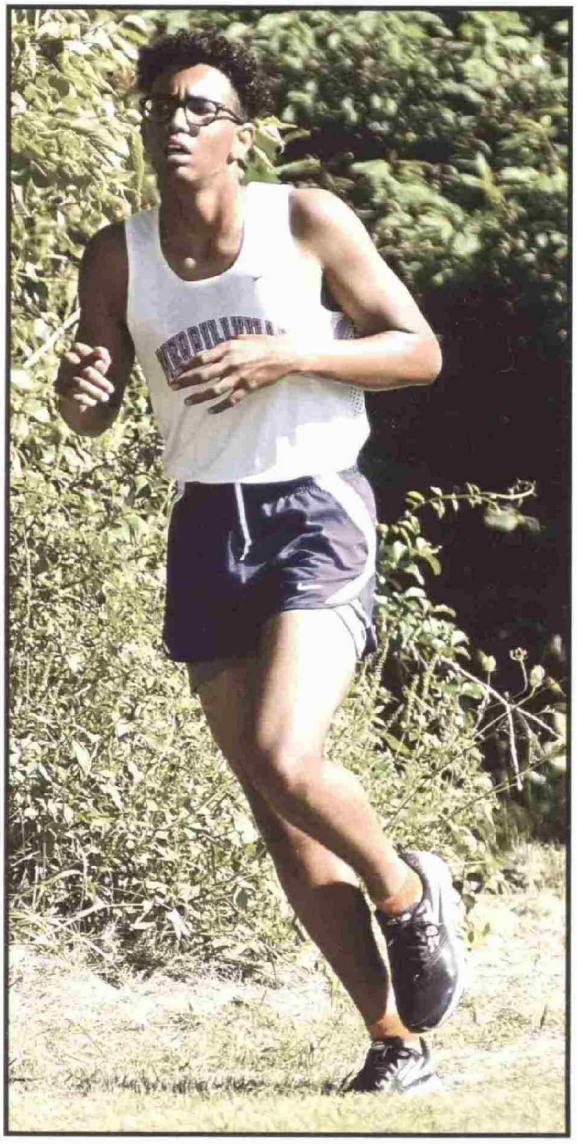


As a runner on the varsity team, Freshman Nigel Phillips tunes out the pressure. "I just think of winning and trying to pass up other people while never giving up," Phillips said. "In cross country, time doesn't lie, and he has one of the fastest ones," Head Coach Mike Hoffman said.

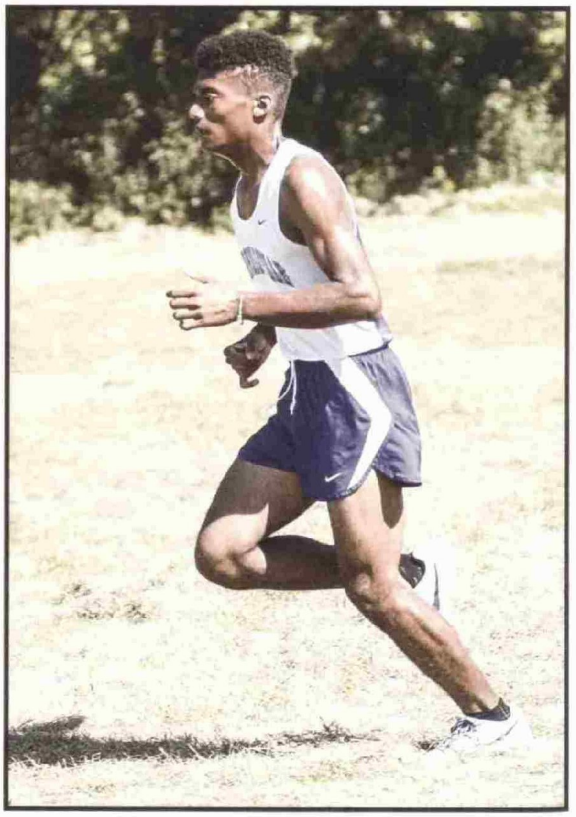
Focused on winning the race, Junior Hayden Harmon attempts to pass his opponent. "Before the race, I really just try to get pumped to beat my fastest time," Harmon said. Harmon's fastest time was 17:21, a personal record, at the T.F. South Invitational.



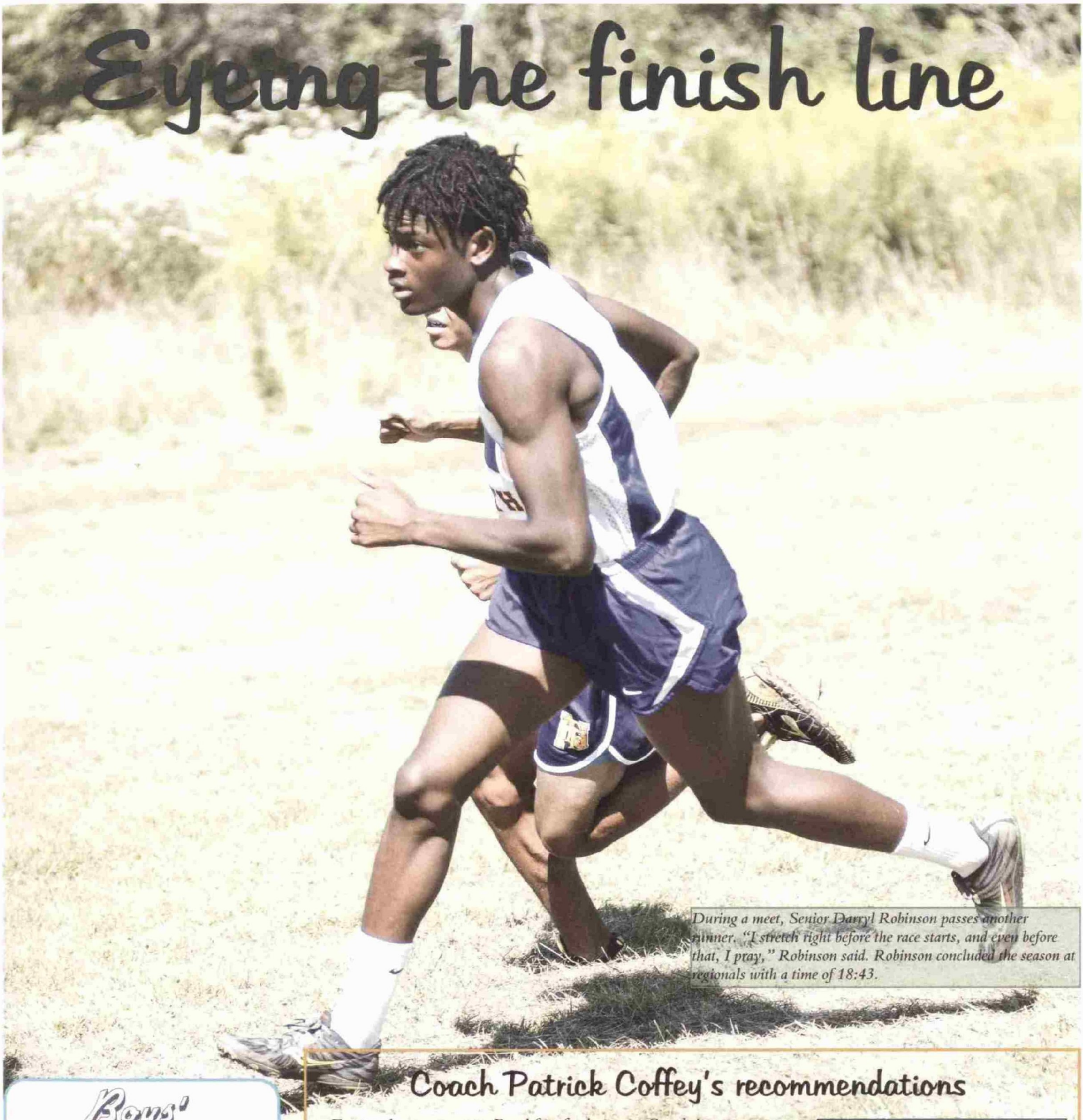
With a determined look, Sophomore Devin Pope narrows in on the finish line. "I always make an effort to stretch and listen to different kinds of music," Pope said. Pope warms up with music and stretches to help clear his mind before he runs.



At the T.F. South Invitational, Sophomore Gabriel Ochoa sets a new personal record of 17:40, beating the time he set last season in the regionals. "Hard work and the will of God, along with everyone on the team encouraging me, have helped me improve my time," Ochoa said. One of three runners from Merrillville to advance to the regionals, Ochoa's season ended at the Crown Point Regionals with a time of 18:59.



Eyeing the finish line



During a meet, Senior Darryl Robinson passes another runner. "I stretch right before the race starts, and even before that, I pray," Robinson said. Robinson concluded the season at regionals with a time of 18:43.

Boys' Cross Country

Meet	Results
Wheeler Invite	1st of 7
T.F. South Invitational	10th of 23
Lowell Invitational	14th of 24
New Prairie Invite	27th of 29
Tri Meet	
Rensselaer	
Hanover Central	2nd of 3
Highland Invitational	8th of 21
Sectional	3 runners advance

Coach Patrick Coffey's recommendations

Eat two hours before the competition because a runner's body will either fight digestion or focus on the performance during the race.

Breakfast foods include eggs, pancakes with light syrup if any at all, waffles, fruit, toast, cereal and yogurt.

Snack items include FDA-approved granola bars, sports bar, trail mix, dried fruit, pretzels, whole-grain crackers, dry cereal, string cheese, peanut butter sandwiches, whole fruits and vegetables.

Pre-race fuel

Sprinting to the finish

With Head Coach Mike Hoffman encouraging from the sidelines, Junior Natalie Dye tries to keep a steady pace in the race. "When I run, I think about the finish," Dye said. She finished second at the Wheeler Invite and helped the team capture first place with her time of 23:43.84.

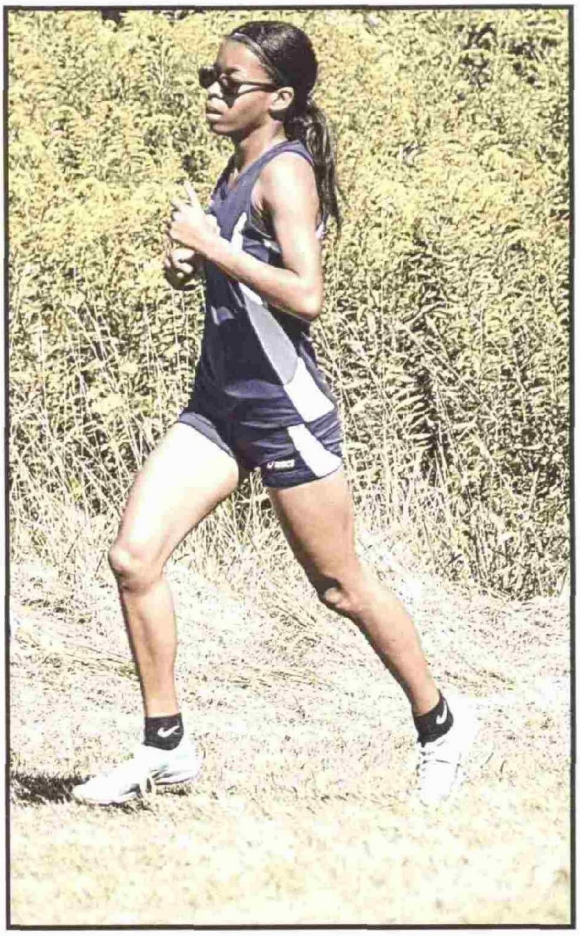
Racing and scoring a high school meet

Runners compete in a 5 kilometer race.
Races are run on grassy, woodland areas.
The first five runners from each team to cross the finish line earn points that correspond to their place.
Officials add the scores for each team.
The team scoring the fewest points wins.

Girls' Cross Country

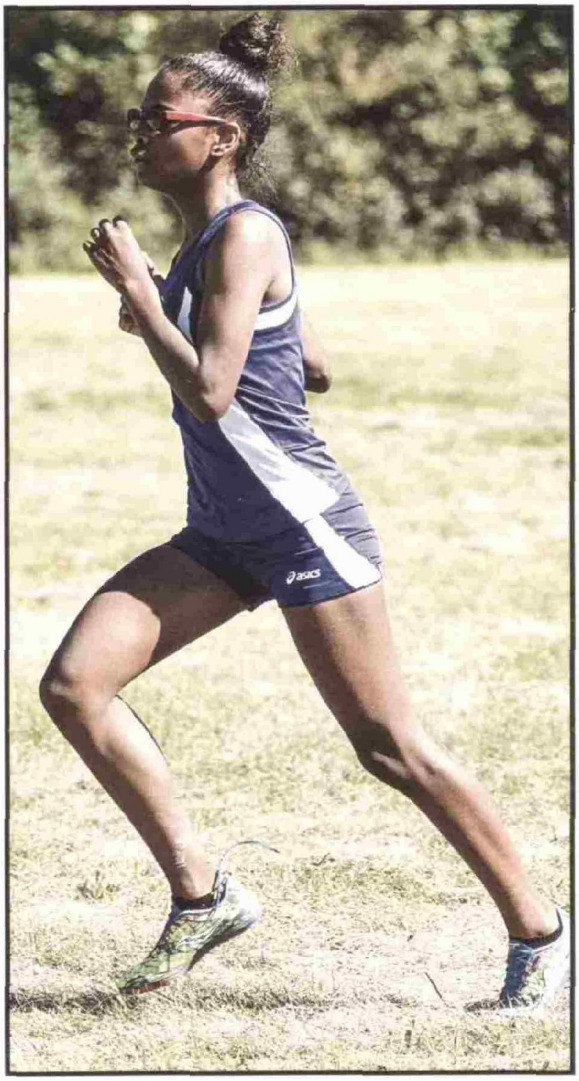
Meet	Results
Wheeler Invite	1st of 7
T.F. South Invitational	4th of 19
Lowell Invitational	9th of 22
New Prairie Invitational	18th of 28
Tri-Meet Rensselaer Central/ Hanover Central	2nd of 3
Highland Invitational	3rd of 12
Duneland Athletic Conference	7th of 8
Sectional	3rd of 9
Regional	7th of 10
3 runners advance	

The only freshman on the varsity team, Shamiya Beasley paces herself through the course. "I was just ready to finish the race. My biggest surprise was me making varsity my freshman year. I continue to strive to mentally push myself to do my best," Beasley said. Finishing in 31st place, Beasley completed the Crown Point Sectional with a time of 24:25.70.



Junior Brendea McNeal stays focused as she runs. "A goal I have for regionals is to place in the top to get around my personal record," McNeal said. McNeal said that the team has room for improvement to place higher and get better times. To prepare for meets, McNeal and the team work on sprints and do warm-ups. "I feel a lot of pressure from the opposing team because they know I'm a strong competitor. I wasn't nervous at sectionals because I know my potential," McNeal said.

Racing through the course, Junior Marisol Ramirez is in it to win it for her team. "I try to focus on catching up to the other person, and not letting the opponent get too far ahead," Ramirez said. Ramirez's main goal is to run the race in 21 minutes.

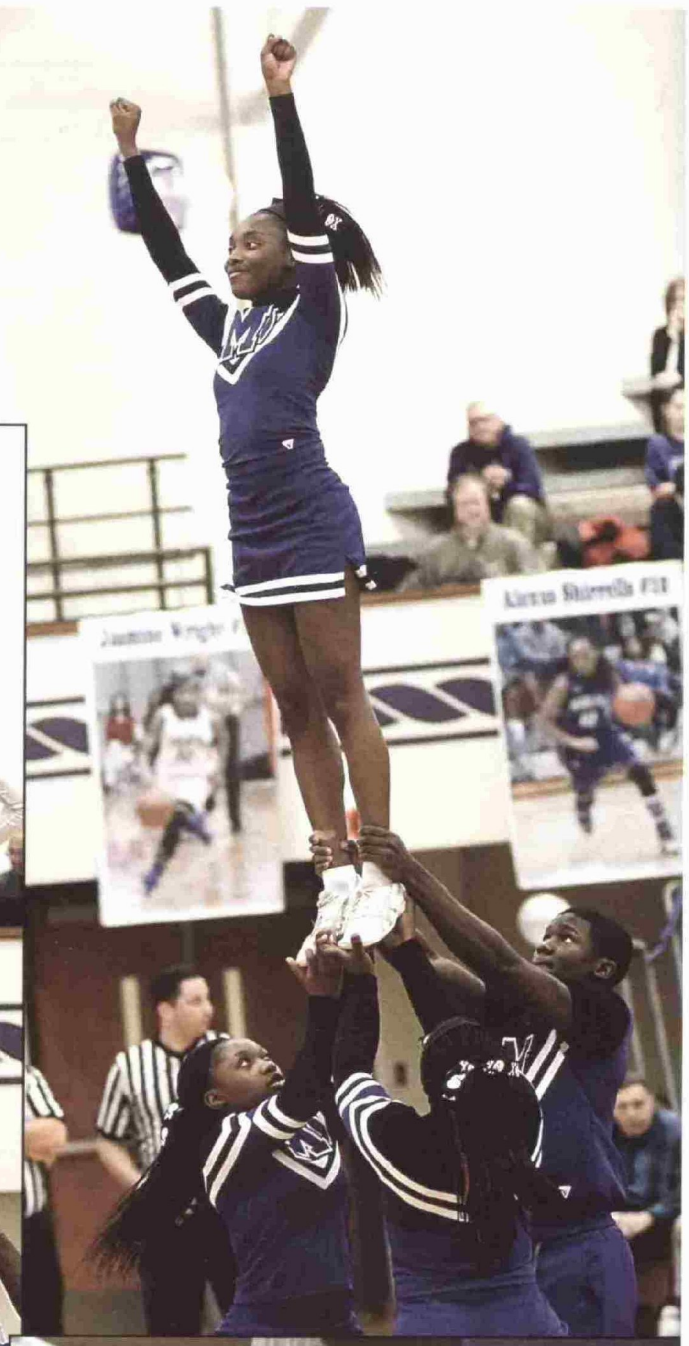


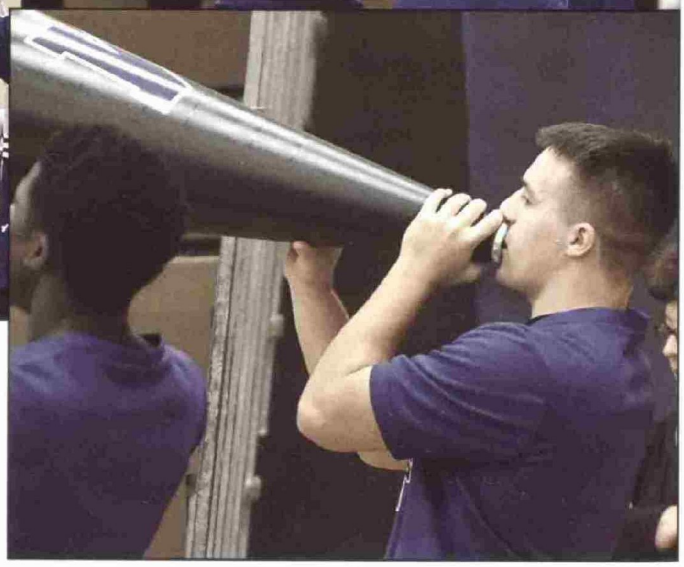
Remaining focused, Junior Diamond Taher keeps her eyes ahead. "When I compete, I am really focused on running at the time, not focused on anything else," Taher said. Her main goal, she said, was to advance to regionals with her team. During her sophomore year, Taher advanced with two teammates to the New Prairie semi-state. Taher finished in 16th place at the Crown Point Sectional with a time of 21:40.46 and advanced to the New Prairie Semi-State.

The view from the top

With arms raised high, Junior Diamond Morris executes the "show and go" stunt during a game. "I want to become more of a leader and speak up because now I just watch and observe," Morris said. Morris is mostly a flyer, but is occasionally a base during stunts.

In the air, Sophomore Aliyah McLain performs a cheer at a home basketball game. "I mostly do stunts because they are so exciting, and it gets the crowd more excited," McLain said. She said she started in fourth grade and joined because her sister used to cheer. McLain's personal goal is to stay more positive during the season.

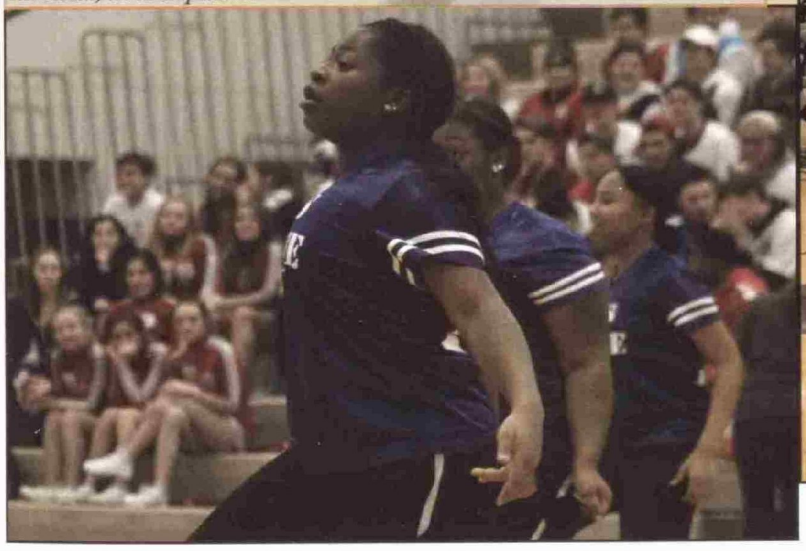




Yelling into the megaphone, Junior Maxwell Govert chants along with the rest of the cheer team. "It makes me feel unique and strong because there are so many stereotypes that go along with it, and I'm beating all of them," Govert said. He cheers alongside his mother, Mrs. Lori Govert, and sister, Mrs. Madeline Beason, who are coaches for the team. "It's like having 2 brothers and 16 more sisters in my life," Govert said.

Leap ahead of the rest

At a home basketball game, the Dance Team performs their halftime routine. "I think that dancing is completely underrated," Sophomore Da'Quinae Campbell said. Campbell said that she hopes to continue dance throughout high school and professionally in her future."Everyone thinks it's just dance when it's not. There's so much technique that goes with it," Jones said, "To them it's dance but to us it's our dream, love and passion."



Performing during halftime, Junior Tiarra Jones starts the team off with their dance routine. "I have been dancing since I was little," Jones said. "It's just the way I express my feelings and get away from the stresses of life." Jones said that even though this is her first year on the team, she has been able to create bonds with her teammates and adapt to new dance styles.

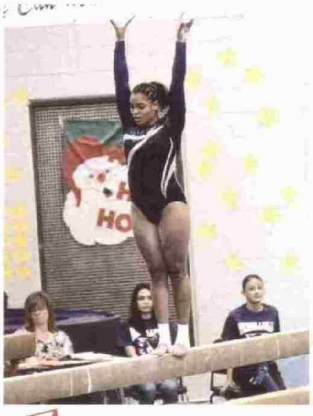
On the sidelines before a home basketball game, Sophomore Nadia Jones and the Dance Team perform their routine. "Through dance, I can express my feelings and release all emotions," Jones said. "I can just get away from whatever is bothering me." Jones said that her inspiration is ballet dancer, Misty Copeland, because of her perseverance through any obstacles that came her way.

Validation

With her arms as her base, Freshman Abby Smith performs a single stag handstand. "I've practiced so much on everything, and it really pays off," Smith said. With the long hours Smith puts in, she earned a spot on the Duneland Athletic Conference All-Conference Team. "When you practice as much and as hard as we did, you know it's going to pay off." She is also the team's Best Mental Attitude winner.

Nailing the back tuck on the beam

By Junior Captain Cryst'n Morgan



1 *Make sure that your feet are pointing forward and that your hips are square. That's how you make sure that you will land correctly.*

2 *Swing your arms and when you jump, reach out to your feet. If you do not reach enough, you won't be able to rotate to get your feet underneath.*

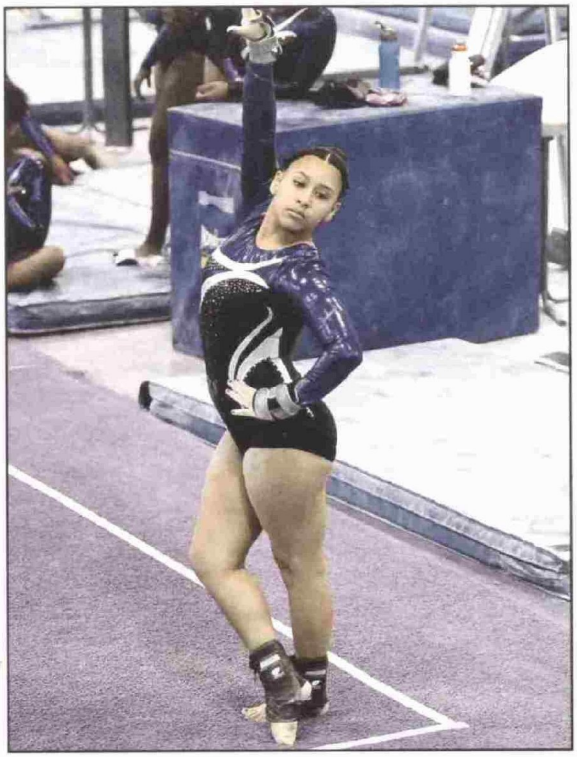
3 *Grab your legs to tuck tight to ensure that your rotation is quick. Then look for the beam while you're upside down to see where you're going to land. Last, make sure your feet land on the beam, your hips are square and your chest is up. Finish with a salute.*

Gymnastics

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Michigan City	W	105.75-103.60
Hobart	W	107.00-97.20
Lowell	W	107.00-93.35
Lake Central	W	108.525-100.625
Ft. Wayne Concordia		4th of 12
LaPorte	W	108.275-97.025
Pirate Pride Invite		1st of 8
Portage	L	107.075-107.175
Chesterton	L	109.475-114.175
Crown Point	W	109.775-108.10
Valparaiso	L	109.65-112.375
DAC		5th of 8
Sectional		3rd of 11
Regional		3rd of 6
State		8th of 9

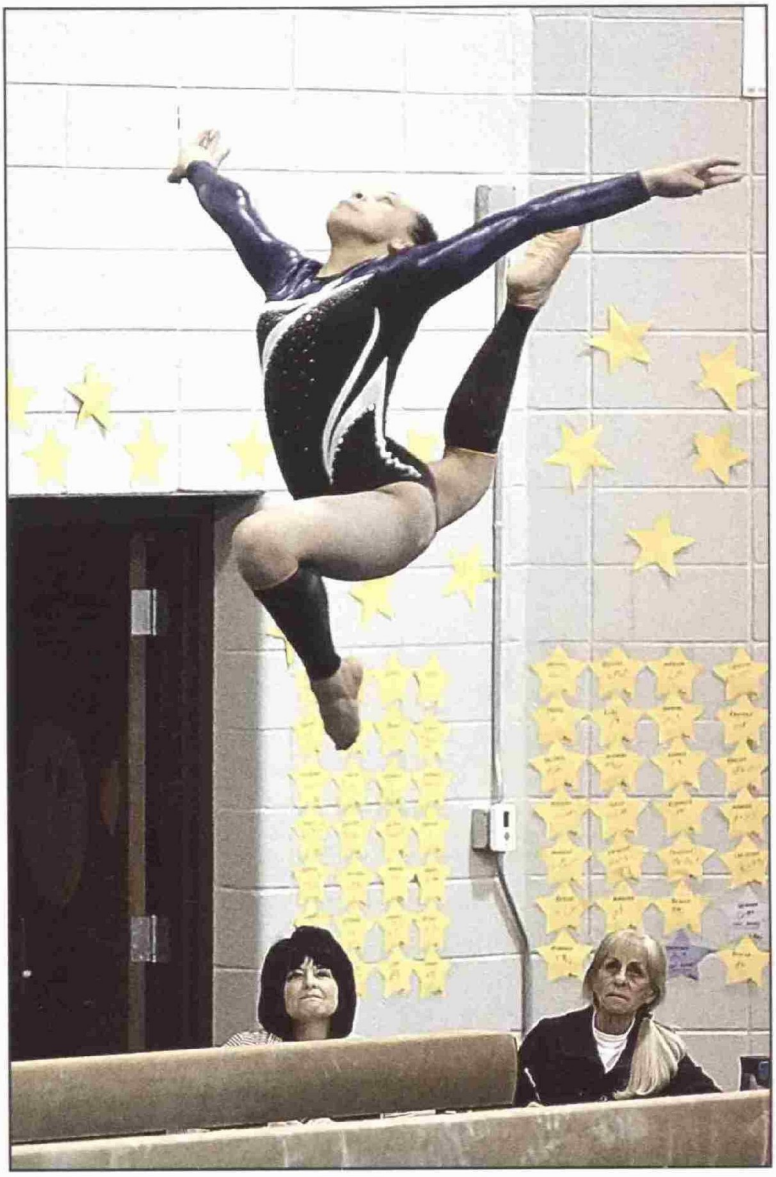
Season Record

6-3

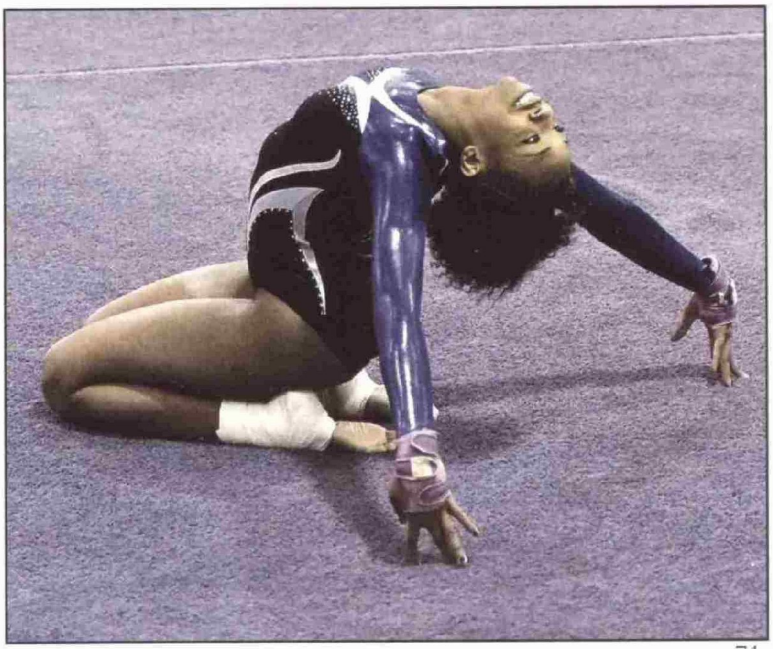


Before she performs a tumbling pass, Freshman Gabby Malave poses in her routine. "I worked really hard throughout the year, getting better in many areas. But as a team, though, I feel like we did really well," Malave said. The team was ranked in the top ten in the state all season. They ended their season 8th of 88 schools in Indiana with gymnastics teams.

One of the few gymnasts in the state to complete this move, Freshman Briana Thomas performs a double stag ring leap on beam. "It was such a challenge and it was tough, but it felt good doing it," Thomas said. "I know I can keep getting better the more I work, so I do feel like there really isn't a limit."



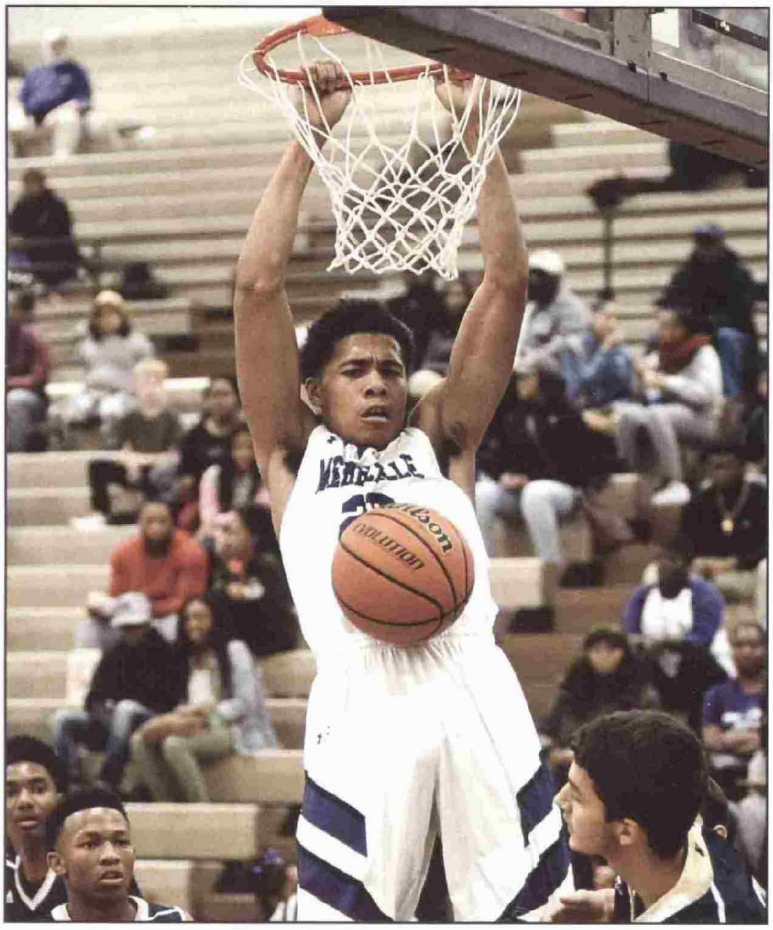
In the air, Senior Heather Osorio performs a full twisting double back dismount on the uneven bars. The newest member of the MHS Hall of Fame made Indiana high school athletics history by being the first gymnast to perform this move. "Heather is a very skilled gymnast and she's works hard, which is why she's successful," Head Coach Diane Roberts said. "Being in the air is all about being focused and concentrating," Osorio said. Osorio medalled in the state tournament on bars, earning a 9.95 of 10. She is ranked sixth in the state on bars and seventh in the all around. Osorio has been the team most valuable player for four years.



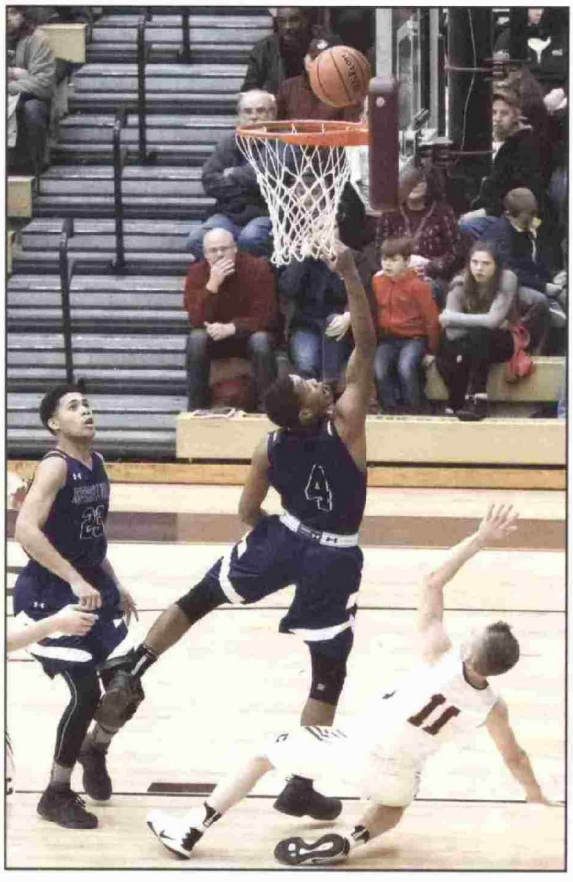
To finish her floor exercise routine, Sophomore Kylah Nicholson throws back her arms and looks up. "Going out there and performing is a great feeling, and hearing the crowd and seeing your teammates makes it even more special," Nicholson said.

With eyes on the Chesterton defense, Senior guard Mitchell Ward (24) dribbles towards the basket. "My favorite thing about the game is being able to play with my brothers and enjoying every moment," Ward said. To improve, Ward mainly works on his free throws and attacking the basket. By season's end, Ward's two-point field goal percentage was at 48.5.

Driving past Andrean defender Tarik Dixon, point guard Junior Johnny Bernard (10) goes to the basket. "My main motivation is my grandma and my momma," Bernard said, "just because they take so good care of me, and I always want them to see me do my best." Bernard said that the love he has for the game is huge, and being on the court always makes his day better. Bernard averaged 13 points per game in the 2016-17 season.



While he dunks over a Bishop Noll defender, forward Senior Cameron Wilbon (23) hangs from the rim. "The passion I have for the game makes me strive to do my best," Wilbon said. To become a better player, Wilbon said he practices drills that put him in game situations.



With teammate Senior Cameron Wilbon (23) and Chesterton defenders watching in anticipation, power forward Senior Kameron Jackson (4) goes for a layup. "My mom is the reason why I play the game and do my best for her," Jackson said. Jackson said the best thing about basketball is being able have a good time with his teammates. Jackson averaged two points and two rebounds per game. His field goal percentage was 50.

For the love of the game

Boys' Basketball

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Hammond High	W	72-47
Southport	W	60-41
East Chicago Central	L	69-67
Bishop Noll	W	91-43
Andrean	W	88-79
Morton	W	78-61
McCutcheon	L	77-74
Holiday Hoops Tourney		3-1
Chesterton	W	64-61
Crown Point	L	69-62
Munster	W	64-34
Portage	W	55-52
Fort Wayne Carroll	W	59-49
Valparaiso	L	63-56
Lowell	W	64-61
Lake Central	L	59-58
LaPorte	W	66-55
Warsaw	W	53-48
Michigan City	L	47-43
Hobart	W	64-52
Penn	W	49-44
Sectional		
Michigan City	W	57-48
Crown Point	W	71-60
Regional		
South Bend Adams	W	75-49
Warsaw	W	50-46
Semi-State		
Fort Wayne Northside	L	82-73

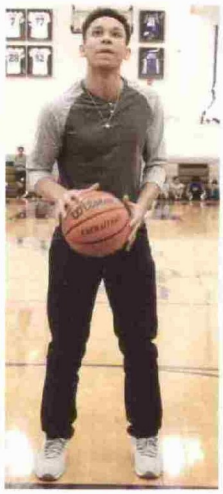
Season Record

21-8

While going up for a contested shot, small forward Senior Milvek McMillan (25) shoots a layup. "My favorite thing about the game is competing and seeing how good a team can be," McMillan said. McMillan averaged 10 points per game.

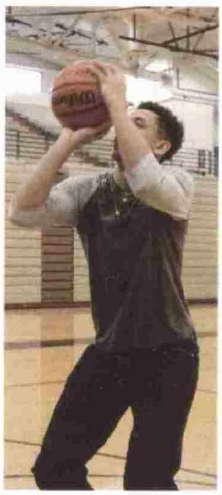
Anatomy of a free throw

By Shooting Guard Senior Jonah Jackson



1 *"I line my right foot up with the halfway marker on the line. After I'm set, I take three dribbles."*

2 *"To block out the noise of the crowd, Coach (TJ) Lux taught us to say 'bulls-eye back of the rim.' So I'll repeat that and it eventually becomes my only focus."*

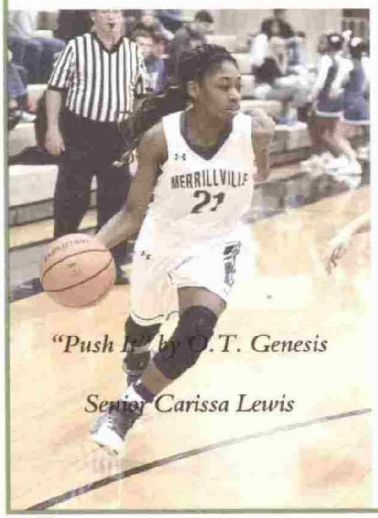


3 *"After I dribble, I cock my wrist and hold the ball with my fingertips to be at my highest point and have a high arc on the shot."*

Girls grab fifth sectional title

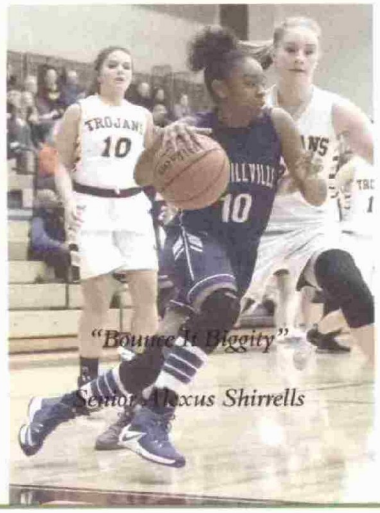
With Chesterton's Brittany Privett trying to block her shot, shooting guard Senior Jasmine Wright (11) goes for a layup. "As a shooting guard, my main goal is to score points. I score an average of 19.5 points per game," Wright said. Wright started playing basketball in third grade as a Junior Pirate. "I want to get to state and get a state ring," Wright said. "It's been a while since Coach Covert has been to state." The team won its fifth consecutive sectional in the 2016-17 season.

Pump it up



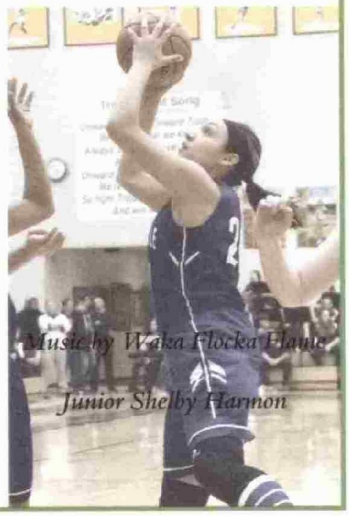
"Push It" by O.T. Genesis

Senior Carissa Lewis



"Bounce It Biggity"

Senior Alexus Shirrells



Music by Waka Flocka Flame

Junior Shelby Harmon

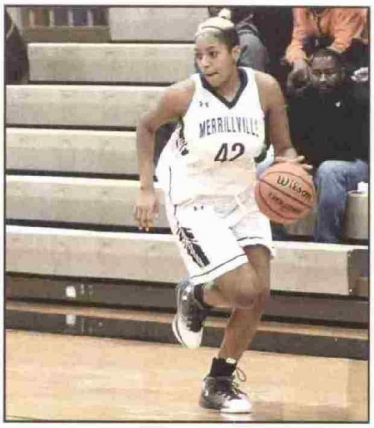
Girls' Basketball

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
South Bend St. Joseph	L	48-43
Bishop Noll	W	69-26
Andrean	W	51-50
Northridge	L	70-25
Goshen	W	41-26
Valparaiso	W	63-47
Lake Central	L	58-56
Elkhart Memorial	W	58-44
LaPorte	W	67-48
Michigan City	W	69-53
Hammond Morton	W	83-66
Penn	W	46-32
Columbus North Tourney		6th of 8
Chesterton	W	49-47
South Bend Washington	W	49-47
Crown Point	W	55-39
Hobart	W	60-37
Portage	W	51-27
Lowell	W	74-23
Sectional Semifinal	W	62-54
Sectional Final	W	62-52
Regional Semifinal	W	63-47
Regional Final	L	55-45

Season Record

18-4

Dribbling down the court, forward/ center Senior Danielle Figueroa (42) looks for a teammate to pass the ball to. "You need to have a lot of mental toughness because the crowd is yelling and you gotta hear the play," Figueroa said. As a post player, Figueroa grabbed a total of 61 rebounds throughout the season. Figueroa said that they improved a lot by the end of the season and learned to trust each other as a team. Despite being defeated in the finals of regionals, Figueroa said that she is proud of how far they had gone. "We gave our all," Figueroa said.

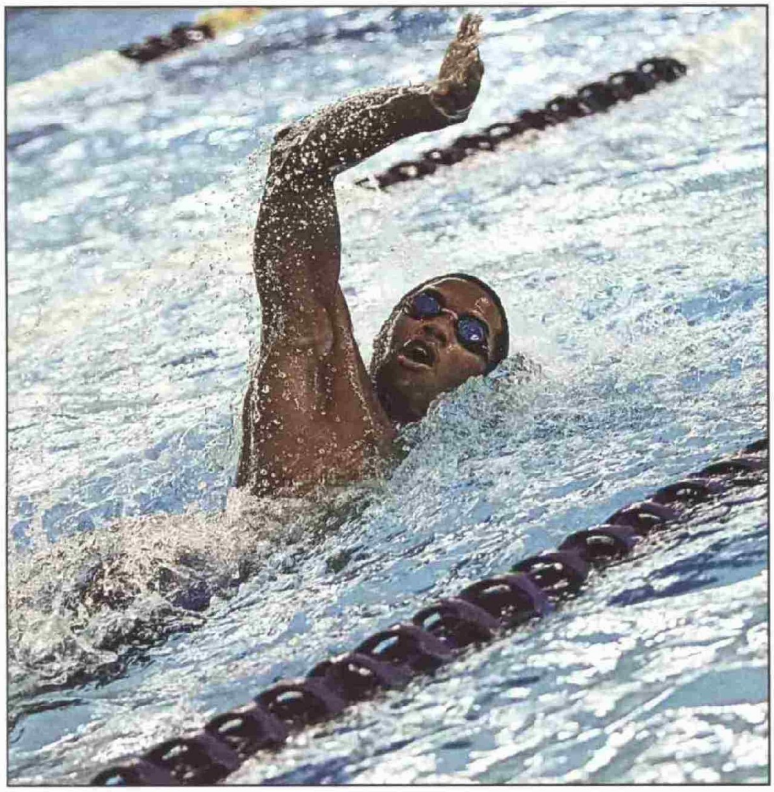


Arms extended in the air, forward Junior Brittney Williams (23) finishes an offensive board. "If they miss the shot, I have to be ready to rebound and put the ball back up," Williams said. Williams said that she uses the leg press and does squats to build her leg strength. By the end of the season, Williams had scored 122 points. "Winning is my favorite part," Williams said. "It feels electrifying."

With both feet off the ground, shooting guard Senior Kiarra Thompson (30) shoots a floater. "My biggest strength is being athletic because I don't get tired," Thompson said. Thompson said that her main goals are to develop a better mindset and gain more confidence. "I want the team to make it to post season and improve in practice," Thompson said. Thompson came out of the season with 434 points scored.

Coming out of a trap, power forward Senior Makayla Pearson (25) passes the ball out for a teammate to shoot a three. "It's difficult to focus while being tired," Pearson said. "I have to be mentally strong and focus on the task at hand." Pearson said that the coaches have a tough love relationship with the players and are always doing what is best for the team. "We've improved as a team and got better on defense," Pearson said. "The season went great."

With body folded in a tight ball, hands holding shins and toes pointed, Junior Maliq Cherry completes a tuck. "Before every meet, to help me focus, I like to listen to music from my favorite artists Kehlani and Frank Ocean," Cherry said. Aside from diving, Cherry also swims the 200 and 400 freestyle relay.



With his right arm raised, Junior Kendall Tanniehill swims freestyle. "The main things that I do to improve my swimming skills are taking notes from my coaches and following what they tell me to change about the way I swim," Tanniehill said. Tanniehill, Seniors Alexis Lopez and Joseph Harris II and Junior Tyler Jasso competed in the 200 yard medley relay that placed sixth at sectionals and in the 200 yard freestyle relay that placed seventh at sectionals. Tanniehill also came in 12th in the 200 yard freestyle race at the LaPorte Sectional.

Swimming freestyle, Sophomore Jordan Harmon comes up for air. "My favorite parts about swimming are the competitions and meets that we go to because I love the thrill of competing," Harmon said. Harmon also has an older brother on the Swimming and Diving Team and said that his brother is the reason he joined.

Diving a front one-and-a-half, Senior James Davis goes head first into the pool. "Something I do to improve my diving skills is make sure I attend every single practice and even after practice, I stay later than everybody else," Davis said. Before every meet, Davis said that he taps his feet in a random rhythm and that helps him get his mind right and in the zone. Davis placed 22nd in the state finals and was the first Merrillville diver to advance since 2001.

Pirates advance diver to state

With both arms moving symmetrically, Sophomore Andrew Keehn swims the butterfly stroke. "I joined the Swimming and Diving Team because I didn't want to be lazy anymore. I felt like if I joined I would be bettering myself," Keehn said. Keehn's favorite part about being on the team is the thrill of the sport itself and the feeling of going fast in the water. Keehn placed 14th in the 200 yard individual medley at the LaPorte Sectional. He competed with Sophomores Josiah Alford, Wesley Davis Jr. and Da'trell Williams in the 400 yard freestyle relay at sectionals, where they placed eighth.

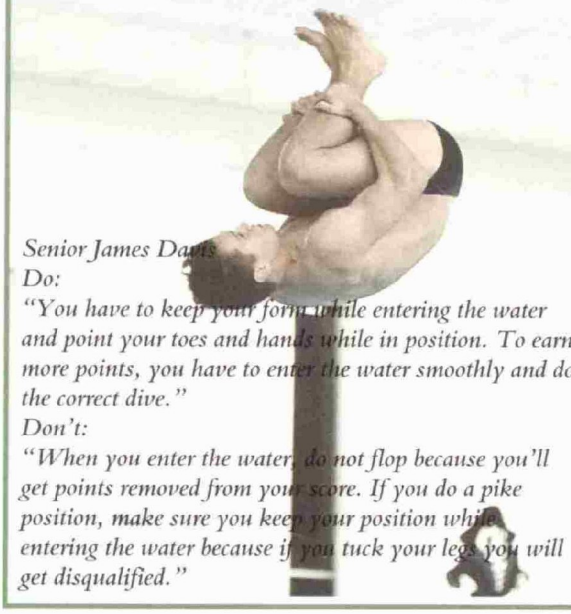
Boys' Swimming and Diving

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage	L	119-66
Rensselaer Central	W	105-79
Lake Central	L	132-54
Highland	L	123-62
Hobart	L	100-93
Crown Point	L	100-82
Griffith	W	120-60
Kankakee Valley	W	105-81
Lowell	L	118-67
Wheeler	W	92-82
Valparaiso	L	116-66
Michigan City	L	129-57
Munster	L	5-1
LaPorte	L	107-78
Bishop Noll	W	148.5-20.5
Chesterton	L	127-59
DAC		8th of 8
Sectional		6th of 10

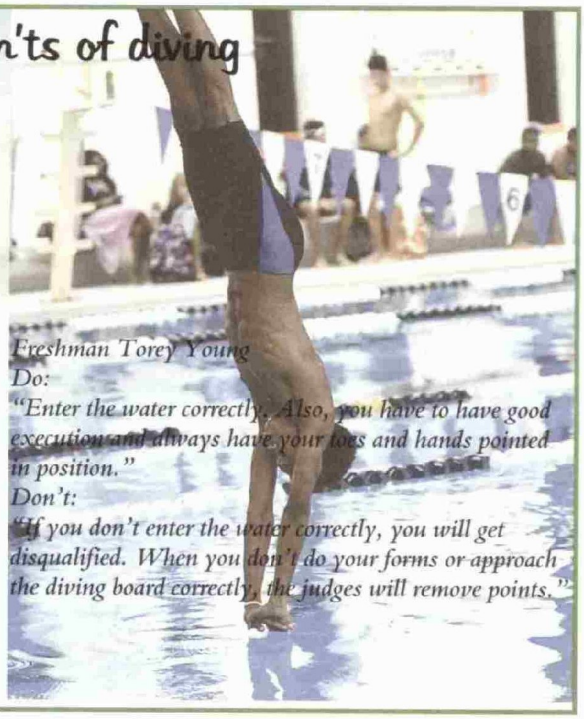
Season Record

5-11

Do's and don'ts of diving



Senior James Davis
Do:
"You have to keep your form while entering the water and point your toes and hands while in position. To earn more points, you have to enter the water smoothly and do the correct dive."
Don't:
"When you enter the water, do not flop because you'll get points removed from your score. If you do a pike position, make sure you keep your position while entering the water because if you tuck your legs you will get disqualified."

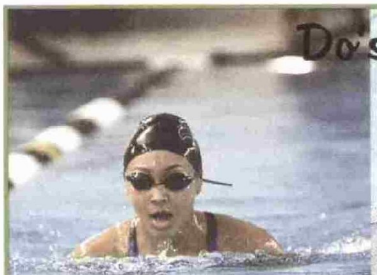


Freshman Torey Young
Do:
"Enter the water correctly. Also, you have to have good execution and always have your toes and hands pointed in position."
Don't:
"If you don't enter the water correctly, you will get disqualified. When you don't do your forms or approach the diving board correctly, the judges will remove points."

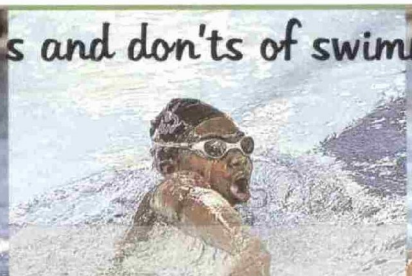
Teammates motivate each other

A swimmer since elementary school, Freshman Morgan Turner swims the butterfly during a competition. This season, Turner met her expectations by placing in the top 16th for all of her events. "My favorite memory was senior night," Turner said. "I enjoyed it because we bonded at a special level." Turner's passion for swimming convinced her to join the Swimming and Diving Team. "The long practices were worth the pain," Turner said. "The outcome was terrific."

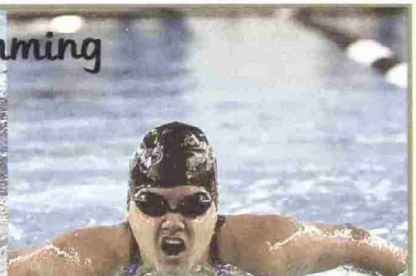
Do's and don'ts of swimming



Sophomore Bailey Rapavi
Breaststroke
Do's:
"Pull out underwater and make sure you glide when you kick."
Don'ts:
"Don't cut your pull short. Make sure you drag it out. Don't take a large breath when you come up."



Freshman Aminah Samba
Freestyle
Do's:
"Kick your legs fast and stretch out your arms."
Don'ts:
"Don't do choppy strokes or take a breath every stroke."



Junior Prysna Valdivia
Butterfly
Do's:
"Push off the wall in a streamline position. Do one dolphin kick and make sure both hands touch the wall at the same time."
Don't:
"Bend your knees when you butterfly kick because it will slow you down."

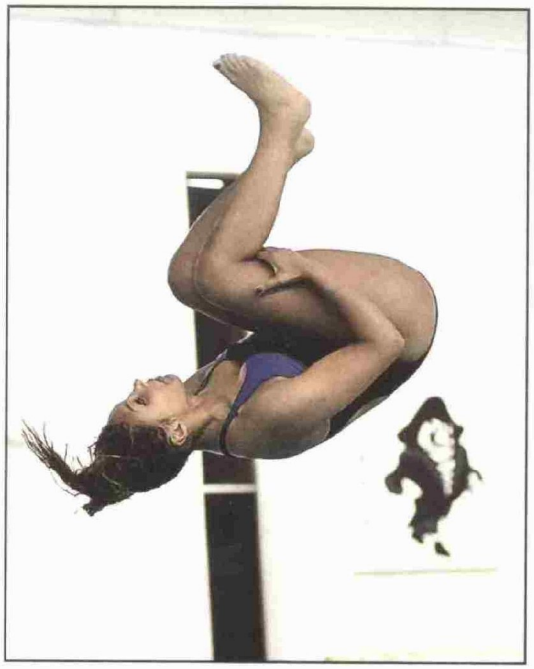
Girls' Swimming and Diving

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Lowell	L	137-46
Chesterton	L	150-36
Portage	L	133-49
Rensselaer Central	L	138-47
Lake Central	L	152-33
Highland	L	123-58
Hobart	L	123-58
Crown Point	L	92-73
Griffith	L	100-83
Kankakee Valley	L	122-63
Wheeler	L	114-62
Valparaiso	L	147-39
Michigan City	L	138-48
Munster	L	149-37
DAC		8th of 8
LaPorte	L	109-73
Bishop Noll	W	135-22
Sectional		8th of 11

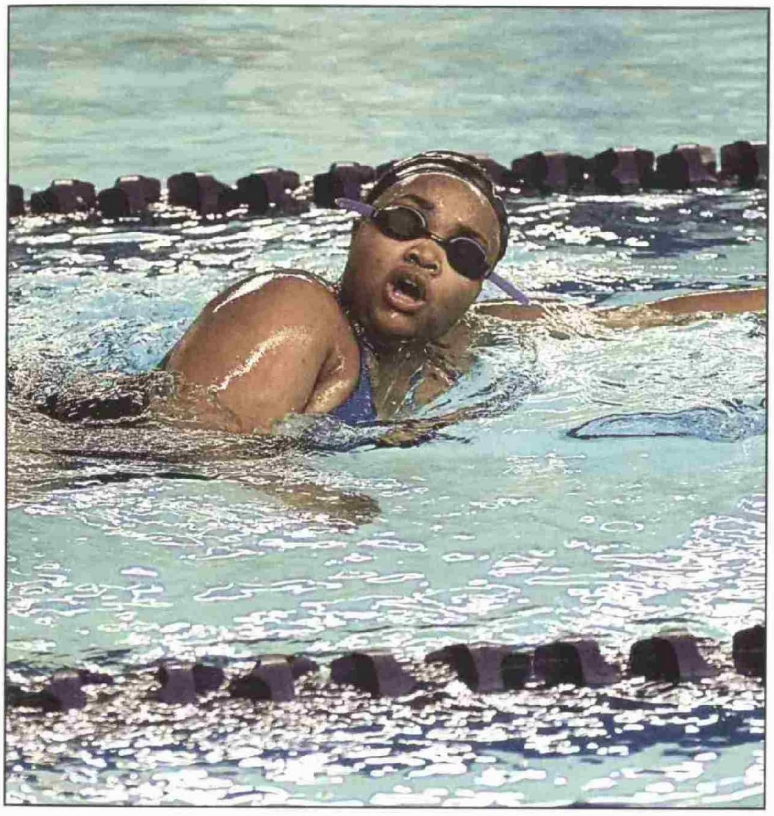
Season Record

1-15

As she dives into the water, Sophomore Bailey Rapavi completes a reverse summersault tuck. "When I am about to dive into the water, I tell myself to keep position and to not flop," Rapavi said. To prepare for meets, Rapavi listens to music and talks to her teammates for motivation. Rapavi accomplished her goal to accumulate more than 100 points for the season. "It looked challenging," Rapavi said. "I like challenges so I decided to try it."

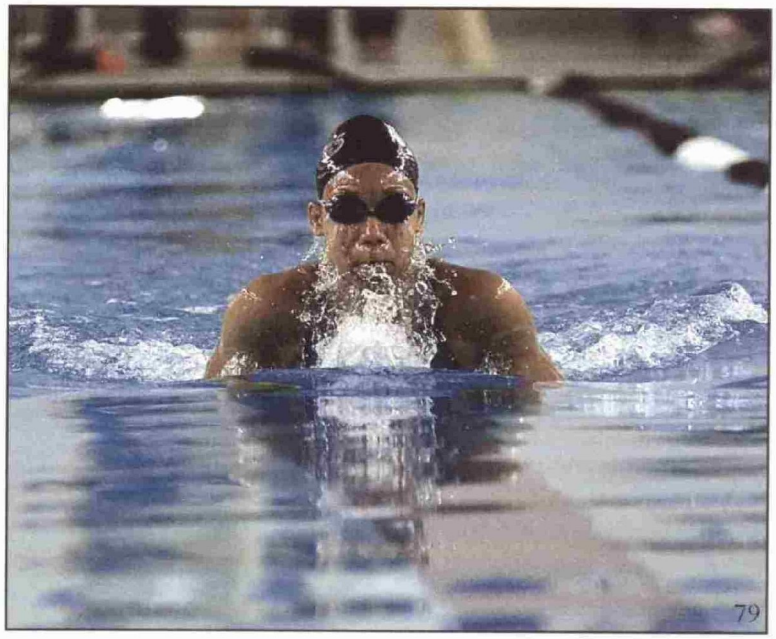


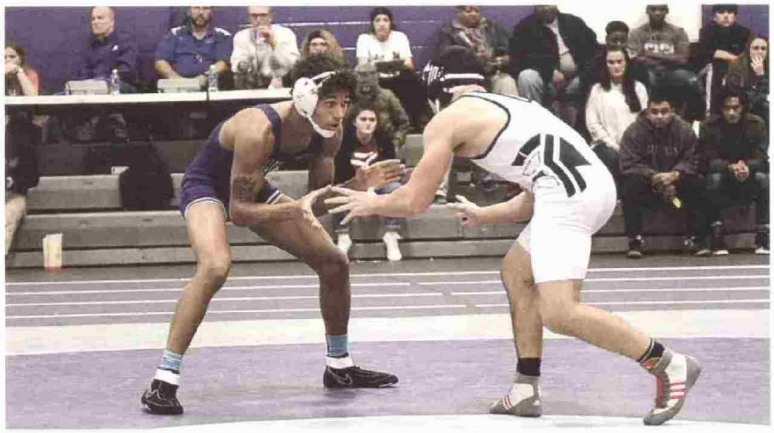
Positioned to dive into the water, Freshman Breanna Buggs concentrates to complete a back half twist. Buggs said watching the Olympic divers inspired her to try diving for the first time. "When I am about to go up for diving, I focus on myself and listen to music," Buggs said. Buggs decided to keep diving until she graduates to achieve perfection. Buggs achieved her goal by making more than 100 points for the season. "I enjoy all the moments," Buggs said, "but my favorite was the morning practices because I like seeing my teammates in their pajamas."



A newcomer on the Swimming and Diving Team, Freshman Diamond Wofford takes a breath between the freestyle strokes. "Caption Senior Ebonie Ali encourages me to keep going even though sometimes it's really hard," Wofford said. Wofford's best event was the 100 freestyle and she had multiple time drops in that event. "Swimming encourages me to meet more people," Wofford said.

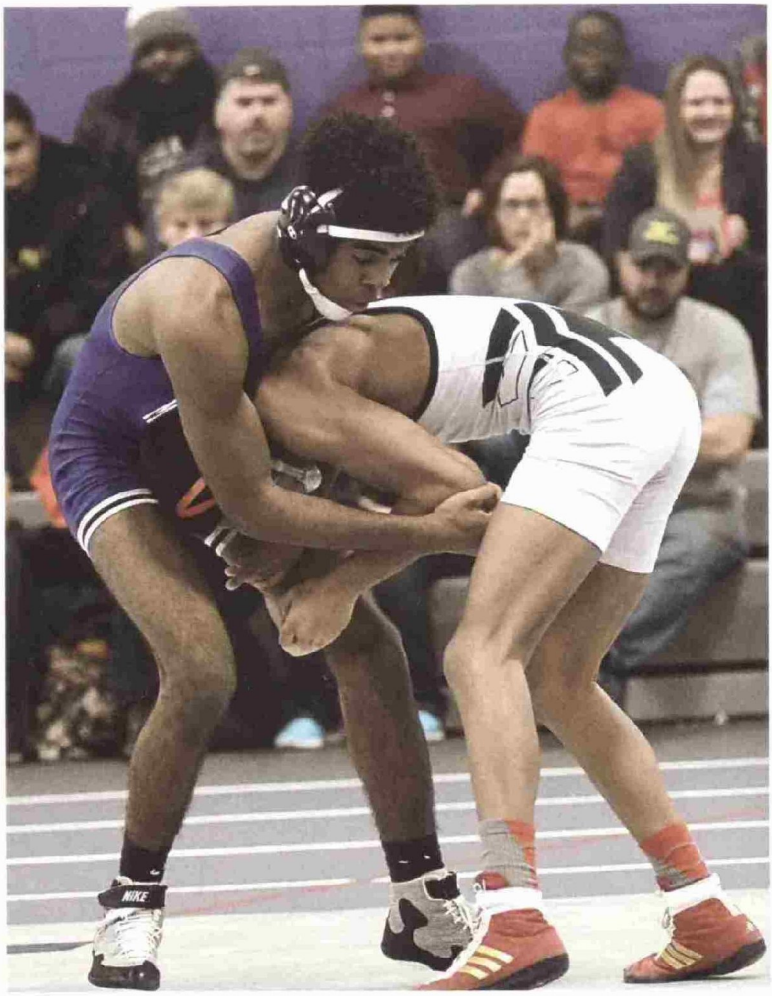
As she takes a breath, Sophomore Janaye Thomas comes back to beat her 100 breaststroke time for the season. "My favorite memory of the season is when my teammates put me in a swim cap," Thomas said. Thomas was a member of the 200 yard medley relay team that placed eighth at the Chesterton sectional finals. "Sectionals was a very good experience like always because you could see who put in the most effort," Thomas said. Thomas' best stroke is the breaststroke because she has good form. "I'm looking forward to more time drops next swim season," Thomas said.

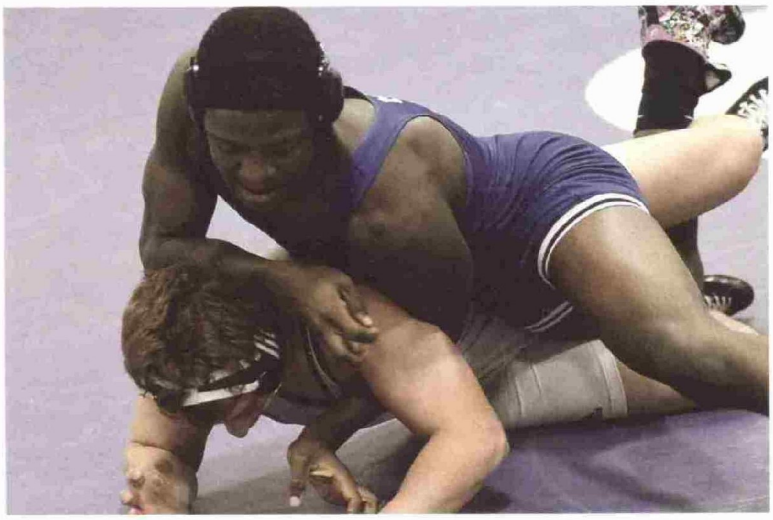




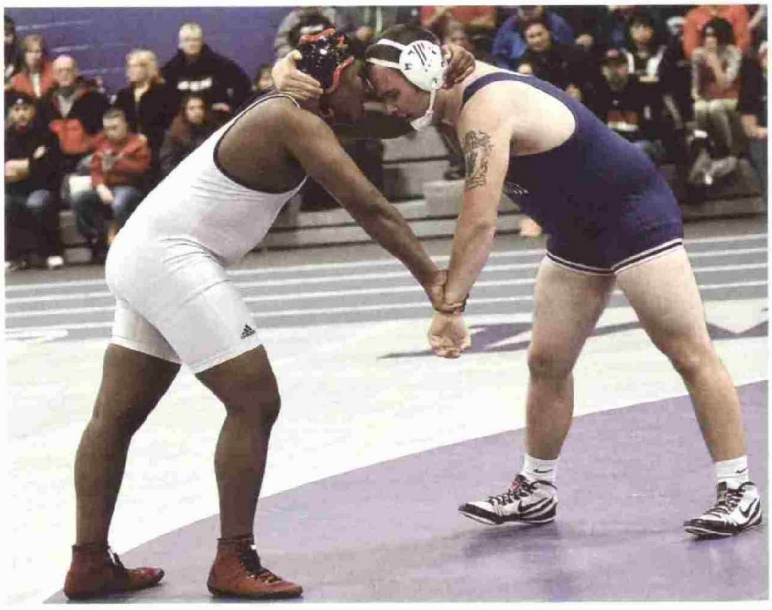
Maintaining a strong grip, Junior Ah'zsur Ursery traps his opponent in a front headlock. "We practice every day for two hours. I pretty much eat what I want and make sure I stay within two pounds of my weight class," Ursery said. Ursery, who wrestles in the 132 pound weight class, was named all around best wrestler at the East Chicago Sectional in January.

As he stalls in his stance, Senior Romeo Hoover locks his eyes on his opponent. "During practices I make sure I push myself to my limits and listen to Maldonado," Hoover said. Hover wrestles in the 152 pound weight class and ended the season with a record of 19 wins and 10 losses. "The highlight of the season for me would have to be our last tournament. I wrestled five times and won all five," Hoover said.





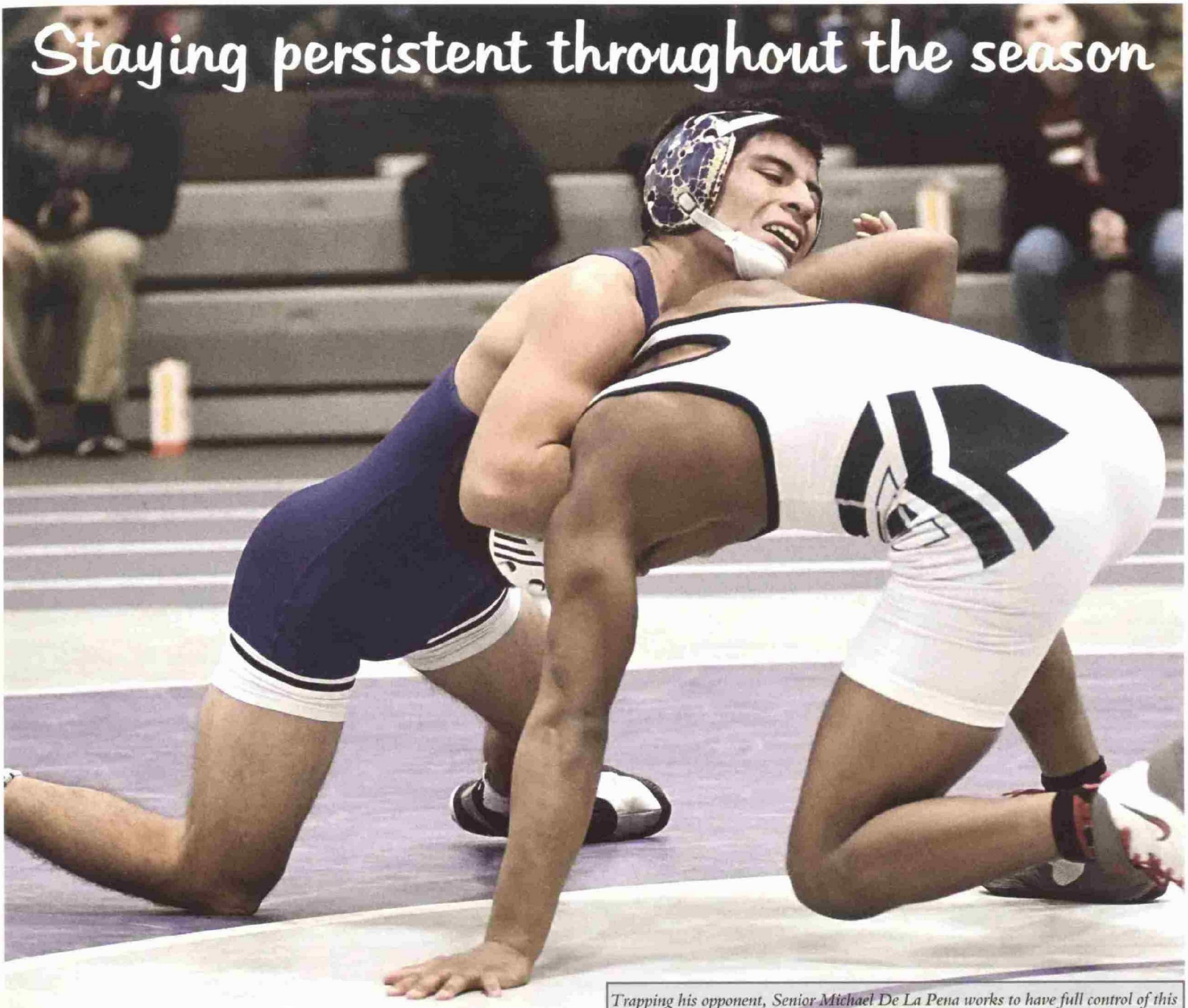
After getting his opponent to the mat, Junior Tyjonn Lockett works the power half on top. "The most challenging part of wrestling is all the practice we have to put in and making sure you practice your hardest every time," Lockett said. Lockett advanced to the first round of the state finals in the 182 pound weight class and ended the season with 24 wins and 16 losses.



From the coach's corner, Head Coach David Maldonado urges his wrestlers to another Pirate win. "It's sad to see the seniors leave, but I'm proud to see them go on other endeavors," Coach Maldonado said. Coach Maldonado and his team earned their 13th sectional title, and 3 wrestlers advanced to the state finals.

During a dual meet against Duneland Athletic Conference rival Portage, four-year wrestler and 220-pounder Senior Andrew Vander Woude engages Chester Swopes in a collar tie. "I just try to go out there and put the pressure on my opponent," Vander Woude said. "I know my conditioning will be better than his." Vander Woude went 28-9 for the season and advanced to the ticket round of semi-state.

Staying persistent throughout the season



Trapping his opponent, Senior Michael De La Pena works to have full control of this match. "To warm up I do the drills then make sure my head is right and focus on my strategy to win the match," De La Pena said. De La Pena holds a record of 37 wins to 3 losses in the 126 pound weight class and advanced to state and placed 3rd.

Wrestling

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Valparaiso	W	49-15
LaPorte Duals	W	5-0
Portage	L	46-16
Tom Cameron Invite	W	5-0
Chesterton	W	36-32
Mishawaka Invitational		2nd of 32
Crown Point	W	31-28
Carmel Duals	L	2-1
Lake Central	W	68-6
DAC Tourney		3rd
Michigan City	W	By Forfeit
Sectionals		1st
Regionals		2nd
Semi State		5th
State		3 advance

Season Record

16 - 2

Six ways to maintain weight

Cut out simple sugars, such as soft drinks

Drink plenty of water. Wrestlers over 200 pounds, drink one gallon. Wrestlers weighing 100 pounds, drink half a gallon.

Portion meals, making sure not to overeat. Instead of getting a 12-inch sub sandwich, get a 6-inch.

Stay away from anything that can be stored as fat, such as fried foods.

Take a multivitamin

A rule to always use to help maintain weight: You want to eat whatever flies in the air, swims in water and grows out of the ground.

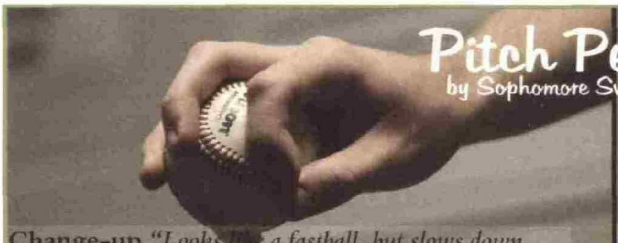
Advice from Head Coach David Maldonado

Touching base with the Bucs

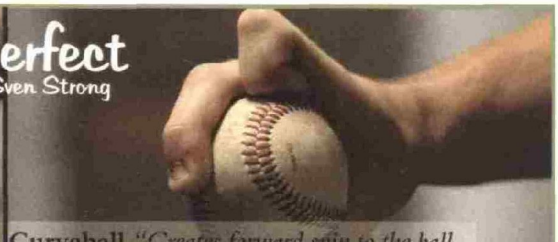
At bat, first baseman Senior Ayron Williams attempts to swing at an unexpected curveball. "My biggest struggle is staying calm after I strike out. I just tell myself that I have another chance at bat," Williams said. Before the game, Williams said that he gets focused and swings off a tee. "I love playing other good teams," Williams said. "It helps us improve."

Pitch Perfect

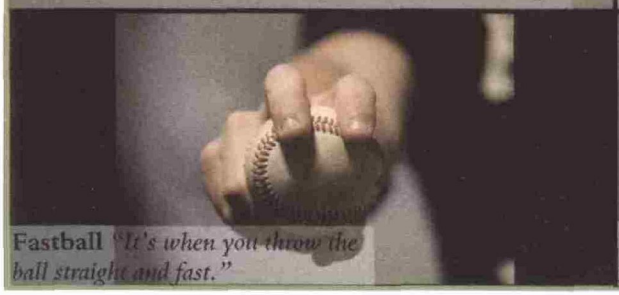
by Sophomore Sven Strong



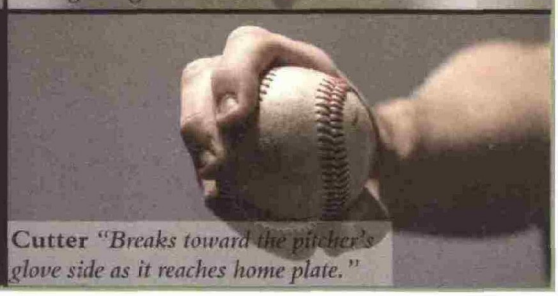
Change-up *"Looks like a fastball, but slows down when it gets to home plate to confuse the batter's timing."*



Curveball *"Creates forward spin to the ball causing it to go downward."*



Fastball *"It's when you throw the ball straight and fast."*



Cutter *"Breaks toward the pitcher's glove side as it reaches home plate."*

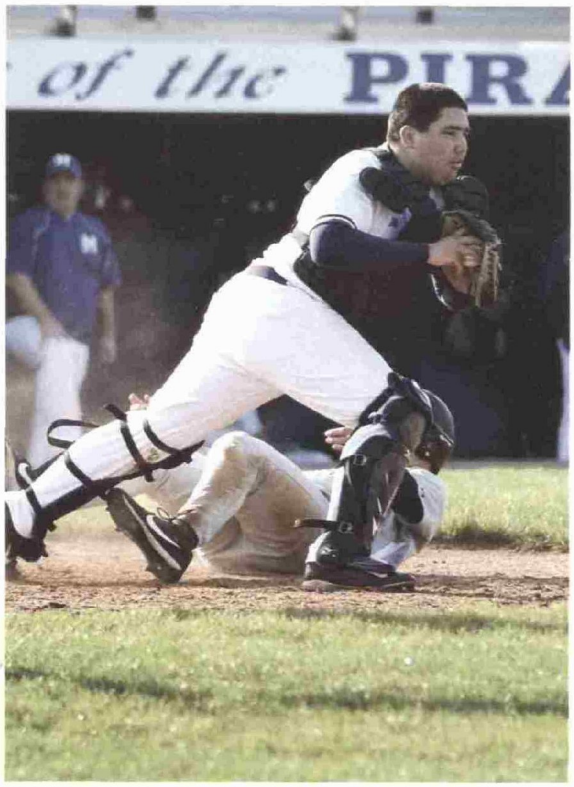
Baseball

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Hobart	L	8-0
Valparaiso	L	20-3
	L	11-3
LaPorte	L	11-0
	L	16-0
Michigan City	W	8-3
Highland	L	11-5
Lake Central	L	12-1
	L	13-0
Rensselaer Central	W	6-0
Chesterton	L	10-1
Portage	L	13-7
	L	13-4
Wheeler	L	11-0
Bishop Noll	W	2-0
Crown Point	L	23-0
	L	13-3
Morton	L	7-4
Sectional		
Chesterton	L	11-1

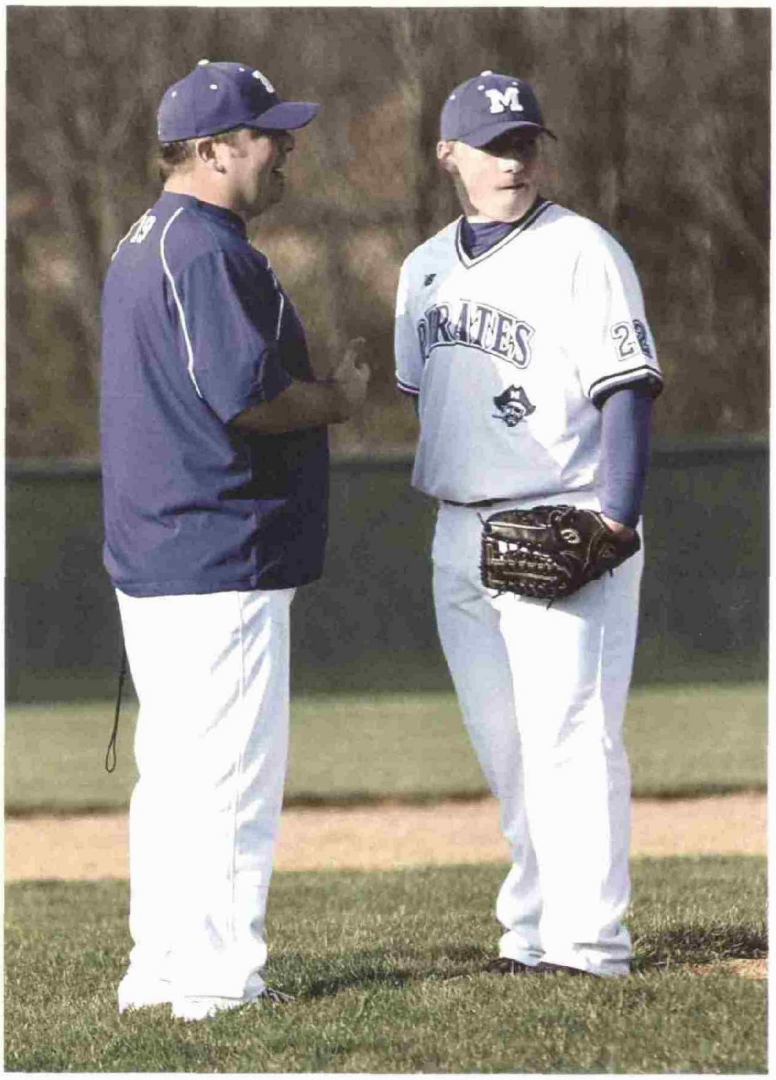
Season Record

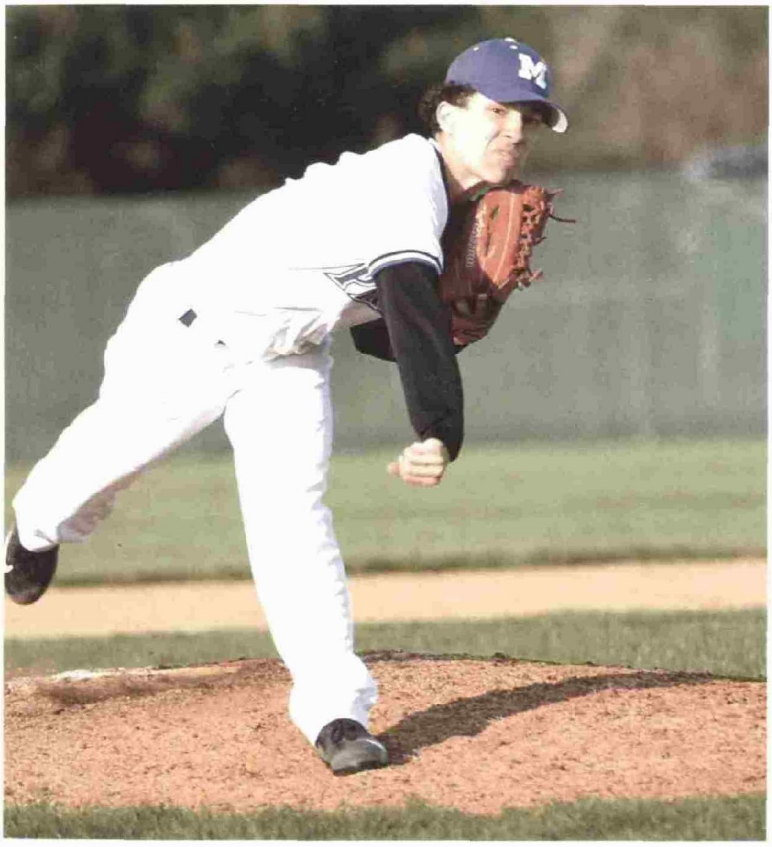
3-15

Extending his legs, catcher Senior Matthew Mallon covers the plate after a hit. "I look up to Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina, and I get a lot of my technique from him," Mallon said. As a catcher, Mallon said he has to know every hitter's tendencies and the ins and outs of every play. "It's my last year. I'm focused on going out with the guys and taking it step by step," Mallon said. "Just having fun."



Standing in the infield with Coach Paul Wirtz, infielder Senior Bradlee Ronning gets advice during a game. "Coach was just telling me to calm down and trust the defense," Ronning said. Ronning has been playing baseball since he was young, and he said he continues to work hard. "I practice day in and day out as if it's a real game," Ronning said. "I would like to play collegiately, but there are no guarantees."

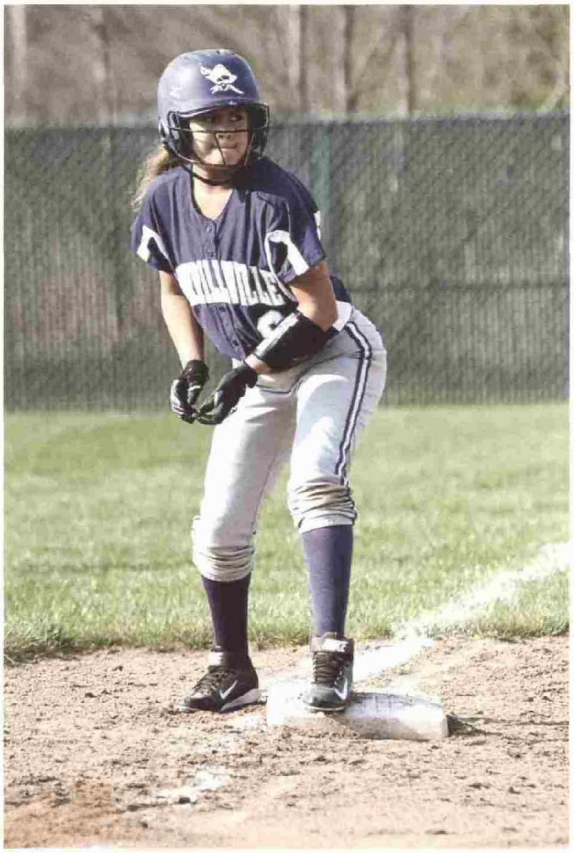




While warming up before a game, pitcher Senior Carlos Perez practices his fastballs and curveballs. "As a pitcher, I have to have strong arms, so I use bands to work them out," Perez said. He looks up to Chicago Cubs infielder Javier Baez. When playing outfield, Perez said the most difficult part is reading a pop fly. "It's hard to see which way the ball is going," Perez said. "Repetition and seeing it more often would help me improve."

Getting down low, pitcher Sophomore Sven Strom fields a groundball. "I mainly practice infield picks and fielding groundballs before a game," Strom said. In the middle of the season, Strom sprained his knee and was out for a week. "I was going for a pop fly and stopped too fast," Strom said. Even though he is only a sophomore, Strom said that he hopes to play baseball for Duke University in the future.

While running bases, Junior Marissa Ramos watches the pitcher and waits for her to release the ball so she can start leading off third base. Ramos plays shortstop and second base. She said that she doesn't like to make mistakes. "When I make mistakes, it gets in my head," Ramos said. Ramos's favorite thing about playing softball is competing, winning and playing with her cousin, Junior Alexis Ramos. "I wasn't playing any sports, and I wanted to try something new," Ramos said.



Mid-wind-up, Senior Jennifer Villanueva warms up her arm and pitches. Villanueva said she'll play anywhere her coaches put her, whether it's pitching or in the outfield. "I've been playing since I was five, and I haven't stopped because it's fun," Villanueva said. In her last year, she said she's going to miss playing with her teammates. "It was a fun year. I'm going to miss my team and coaches," Villanueva said. "The year went by too fast."

Standing in fielding position, Freshman Kayla Alcox is ready for any ball coming her way. Alcox plays right field, left field and center field, but she likes right field the most. "My dad made me play, and I didn't want to. I cried, but the more I played, the better I got and started to like it," Alcox said. Alcox is the only freshman on varsity. "The girls on the softball team are all very welcoming, and they don't treat me any different," Alcox said.

Ball in hand, Sophomore Paige Wood catches one of Senior Jennifer Villanueva's pitches. Wood has been playing softball for eight years, and she said she's a utility player, playing every position. "I wanted to get into a sport I liked, and softball seemed like a good idea," Wood said. Wood said her strengths are being able to put her all into the game. "When I get frustrated, I get into my head too much, but my teammates cheer me on and help me through it," Wood said.

Softball says goodbye to seniors

Up to bat, Senior Mi-Chae' Smith looks ready and focused as she attempts to bunt. When Smith first started playing, she played first base, then she started pitching. "When I came to Merrillville, I started mainly playing outfield and pitching," Smith said. One of Smith's strengths is hunting. She said she got scholarship offers from Pennsylvania and Illinois. "I don't really want to play sports in college because I played so long and all through high school, so I just want to focus on school and unwind," Smith said.

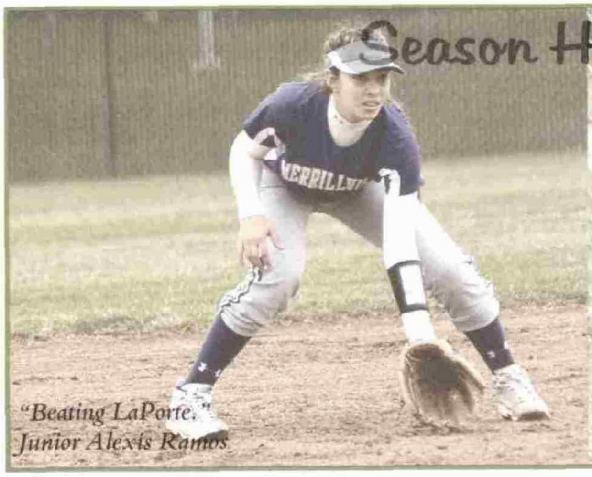
Softball

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Highland	L	7-5
Griffith	L	9-1
Valparaiso	L	6-1
Morton	W	3-2
Bishop Noll	L	3-2
LaPorte	L	20-0
Michigan City	W	13-1
Lake Central	L	16-0
Chesterton	L	18-0
Hebron	W	10-5
Kankakee Valley	L	8-1
Portage	L	16-2
Crown Point	L	10-0
Lowell	L	8-0
Valparaiso	L	7-4
LaPorte	W	12-6
Morton	W	7-5
Michigan City	W	12-2
Lake Central	L	9-0
Chesterton	L	18-0
Portage	L	11-0
Hobart	L	9-3
Andrean	L	7-0
Crown Point	L	10-0
Boone Grove	L	3-2
Sectional		
Valparaiso	L	13-5

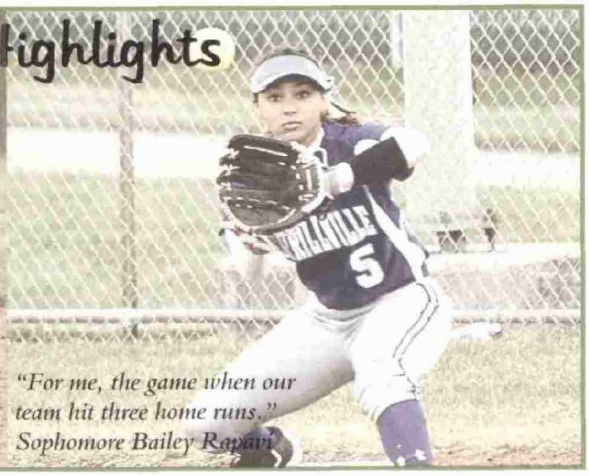
Season Record

6-20

Season Highlights



"Beating LaPorte." Junior Alexis Ramos



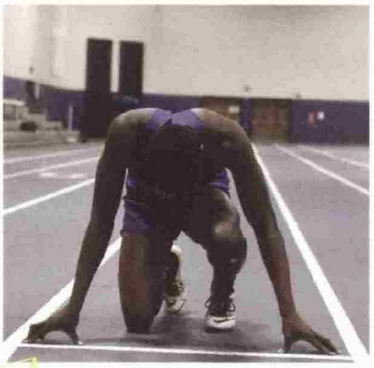
"For me, the game when our team hit three home runs." Sophomore Bailey Rapani

Exceeding expectations

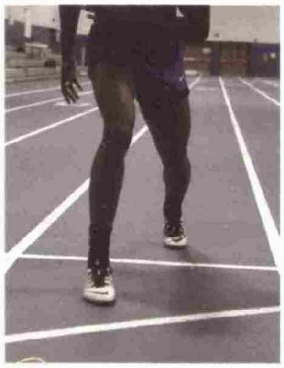
Beginning the 200-meter dash, Senior Thomas Golden focuses on getting a good start. "Track gives me the opportunity to get a lot of energy out and gain speed," Golden said. Golden said he joined track to give himself a sense of discipline and a chance to run as much as possible. Golden also competes in the 4x400-meter relay with Seniors Kaylin Brookshire and Darryl Robinson and Junior Chaz Sales, and the relay team advanced to the state tournament, where they placed 14th. "We exceeded expectations in most of the events. We qualified for state, and for the 4x4, this is the third year in a row we had to replace three legs, and all three, we qualified for state," Coach Patrick Coffey said.

How to clear a hurdle

by Coach Patrick Coffey and Junior Robert Williams



Keep your momentum going and take three strides.



Lead with your strong foot.

Keep your upper body in a 55-degree angle.

Boys' Track and Field

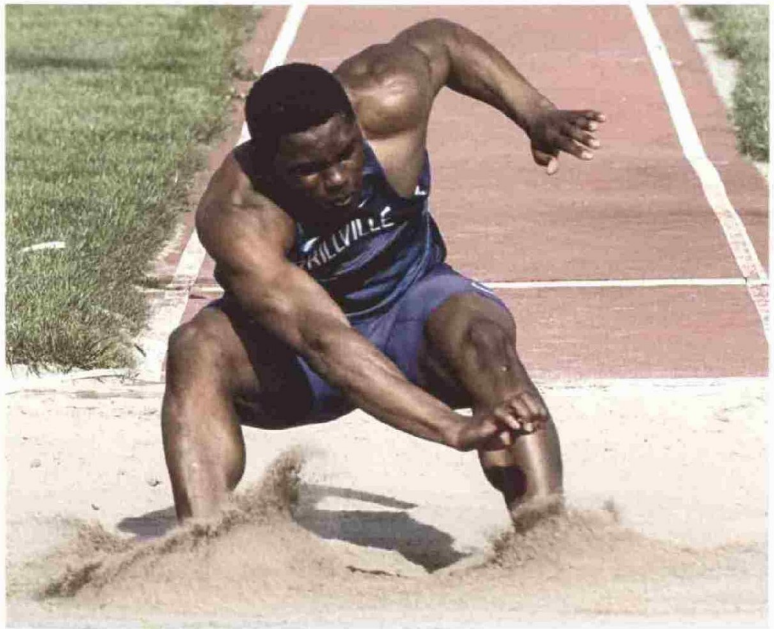
Opponent Win/Loss Score

Crown Point	L	86-46
Lake Central	L	72-60
Ben Davis		5th of 7
Portage	L	79-53
LaPorte	W	73.5-58.5
W. Lafayette Relays		3rd of 9
Michigan City	W	80-52
Valparaiso	W	77-55
Lime City Relays		2nd of 8
Chesterton	L	66.5-65.5
DAC		5th of 8
Sectional		3rd of 10
Regional		4th of 27

Season Record

3-4

As he vaults over the bar at 11 feet, Junior Timothy Porter IV gets ready to let go of the pole and fall backward onto the mattress. "You have to focus on making the jump," Porter said. "If you think of anything else, you can easily lose focus." Before every meet, Porter runs two laps, stretches and keeps moving so his knees don't lock up. He placed second at sectionals, vaulting 11'6".



With legs stretched over the hurdle, Junior Xavier Griffin strives to finish his race. "My favorite thing is that hurdles is a very challenging race. It's fun, and it's something you actually have to work hard at if you want to be good," Griffin said. Before each race, Griffin focuses on beating everybody. Griffin and Sophomores Gabriel Ochoa, Wesley Davis and Dominique Wood advanced to the regional.

After he enters the throwing circle, Junior Brett Norton rests the shot close to his neck before releasing it at shoulder height. "I got into throwing because it's something different," Norton said. "And I eventually fell in love with the sport itself." Norton said all of the throwers act like a family, and that helps him stay more focused. Norton placed first in discus at the Duneland Athletic Conference meet. He placed second in the discus and third in the shot put at sectionals and advanced to regionals. Norton placed third in shot put at regionals and advanced to the state tournament, where he placed fourth.

After he lands in the sand, long jumper Senior Kejuan Thomas tries to maintain balance and control. "Coach Curry inspired me to do more in track, so I could be a better all-around player in football," Thomas said. Thomas participated in track for three years in high school in the 100-meter, 200-meter, 4x1 and long jump. Thomas's personal record in long jump is 20'7". Thomas advanced to regionals after placing second in the Crown Point Sectionals, sprinting 22.83 in the 100-meter dash. In the 200-meter dash, Thomas placed second with a time of 22.63.

Rounding the curve at a home meet, Junior Natalie Dye runs in a relay race. In sectionals, Dye broke the school record in the 4x800-meter relay with teammates Juniors Diamond Taher and Brendea McNeal and Freshman Shamiya Beasley with a time of 9:36.98. Dye advanced to regionals with the 4x800-meter relay team, where they came in fifth. In the 800-meter run at the regional, she came in fifth with a time of 2:20.40.

With her eyes on the sand in the distance, Sophomore Payton McHenry prepares to long jump. "I'm really proud of myself, but I got injured during the season and I lost faith, and now I found my confidence," McHenry said. McHenry placed fourth at 17-03.25 in the Lowell Sectional. McHenry moved on to state after jumping 16-9.75 at regionals. At state, she came in 18th, jumping 16-11.25

New to the school's track team this year, Junior Alysa Coleman runs in the open 400. At sectionals, Coleman was a member of the 4x400-meter relay team with Junior Natalie Dye, Senior Carnisa Laster and Sophomore Aniya McClendon that broke the sectional record with a time of 3:58. She also took third place in the 200-meter dash and advanced to regionals. During the season, Coleman also competed in the 4x100-meter relay and the 4x800-meter relay. "It's challenging sometimes, but it'll make me better and more versatile for college," Coleman said. Coleman advanced to state in the 200-meter race and placed 14th and in the 400 and placed 27th. At state, the 4x400 relay team of Dye, Laster, McClendon and Coleman came in seventh.

Baton in hand, Freshman Christina Smith runs the 4x800-meter relay. Smith runs in the 400-meter run, 800-meter run and 4x400-meter relay. "The 800 is the hardest event for me to run because it's only me running it, and I don't have anyone to depend on to make up time," Smith said.

Girls race ahead of the competition

During a home meet, Sophomore Kiyah Walker flies over the hurdle. Walker wanted to start hurdling because she wanted to try something new in seventh grade. "I can improve more by doing workouts with mid-distance, improving my form and building up speed between hurdles," Walker said. At sectionals, Walker placed seventh in the 300 hurdles with a time of 49.24.

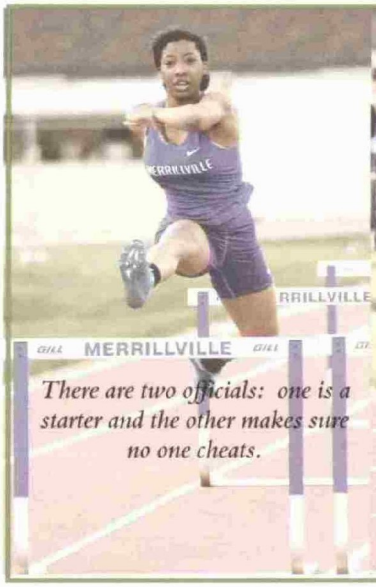
Girls' Track and Field

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Tri-Meet		
Crown Point	L	83-49
Lake Central	L	69-63
Tri-Meet		
LaPorte	W	86-46
Portage	W	99-33
West Lafayette		2nd of 9
Tri-Meet		
Valparaiso	W	80-52
Michigan City	W	91-41
Lime City		2nd of 8
Chesterton	W	70-62
DAC		2nd of 8
Sectional		2nd of 11
Regional		2nd of 27

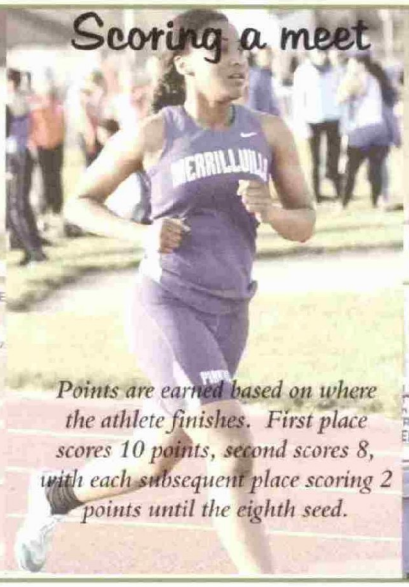
Season Record

5-2

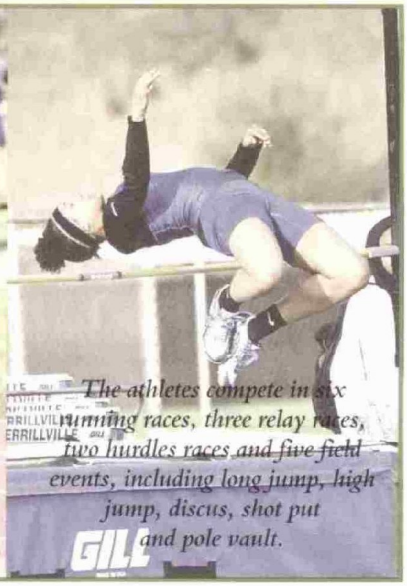
Scoring a meet



There are two officials: one is a starter and the other makes sure no one cheats.



Points are earned based on where the athlete finishes. First place scores 10 points, second scores 8, with each subsequent place scoring 2 points until the eighth seed.



The athletes compete in six running races, three relay races, two hurdles races and five field events, including long jump, high jump, discus, shot put and pole vault.

Team focuses on making improvements

During a home meet, Junior Madison Bullock uses the backhand. Bullock, who played No. 2 and No. 3 singles, said her goal for this season was to prove to that she can perform on the court. "A setback is a set for a comeback," Bullock said. Bullock said she struggled to get used to the new coach, and she said eventually everything was better on the team.

Ways to create a team bond girls' tennis style

Go to each other's houses
Go out to eat
before games start
Give each other rides
to the games

Kamri Smith

Make sure we stay together
and do things together
Connect with each other
Make everyone
feel welcome

Emily DeCausemaker

Communicate
with each other
Love teammates
Play games together

Illaha Abdul

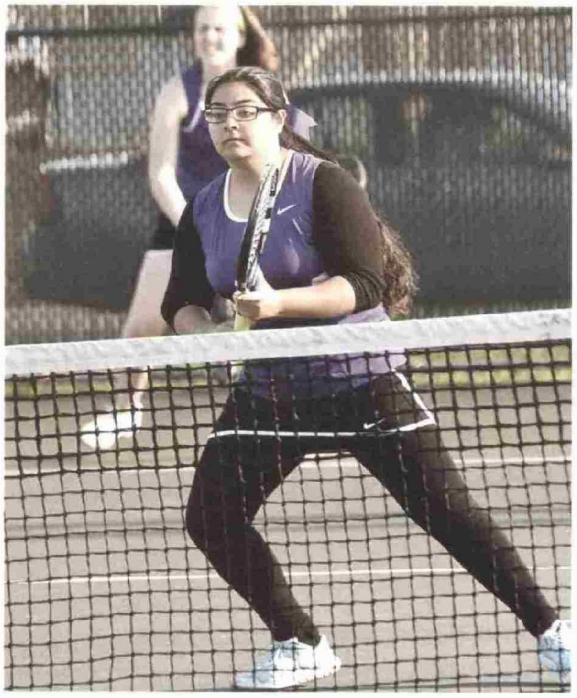
Girls' Tennis

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Highland	L	5-0
Boone Grove	L	4-1
Lowell	L	4-1
Valparaiso	L	5-0
Hanover/Lowell invite		7th
Whiting High School	L	5-0
Portage	L	5-0
Chesterton	L	5-0
Lake Central	L	5-0
Wheeler	L	5-0
Crown Point	L	5-0
Kankakee Valley	L	5-0
Michigan City	L	5-0
Andrean	L	5-0
LaPorte	L	5-0
Sectional	L	5-0

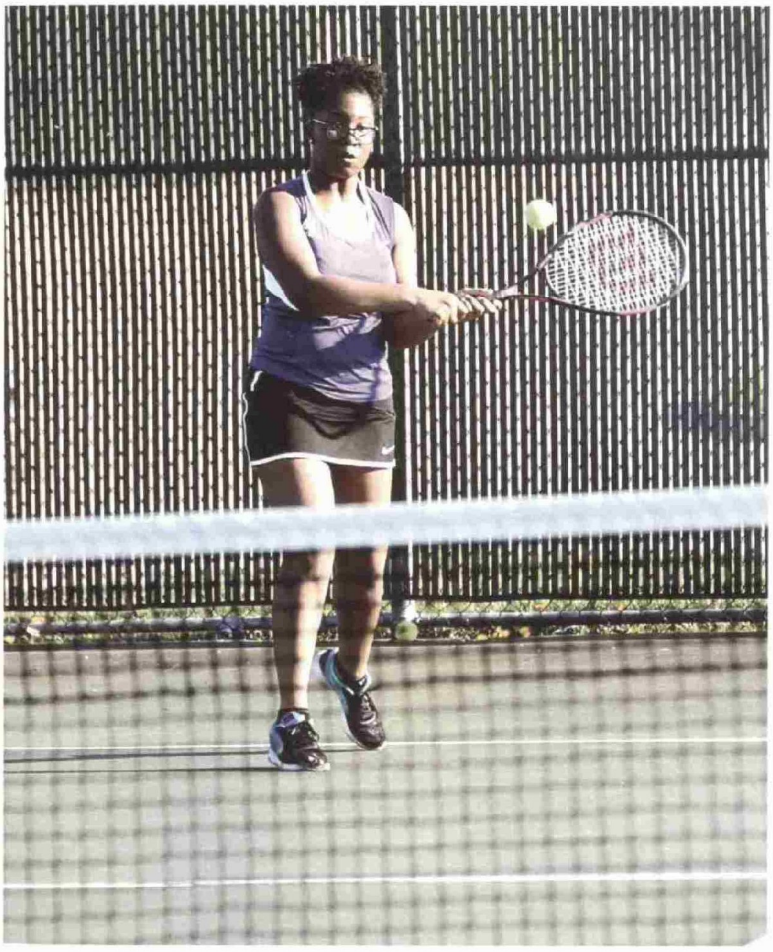
Season Record

0-15

With her No. 1 Doubles partner Senior Isobel Collins backing her up, Senior Illaha Abdul guards the net. Abdul moved from No. 2 Doubles last year to the No. 1 spot this year. "My strengths are with my volleys and my forehand strokes," Abdul said. "Overall the team became more of a closer family than we expected. I definitely enjoyed spending my senior year with these girls."



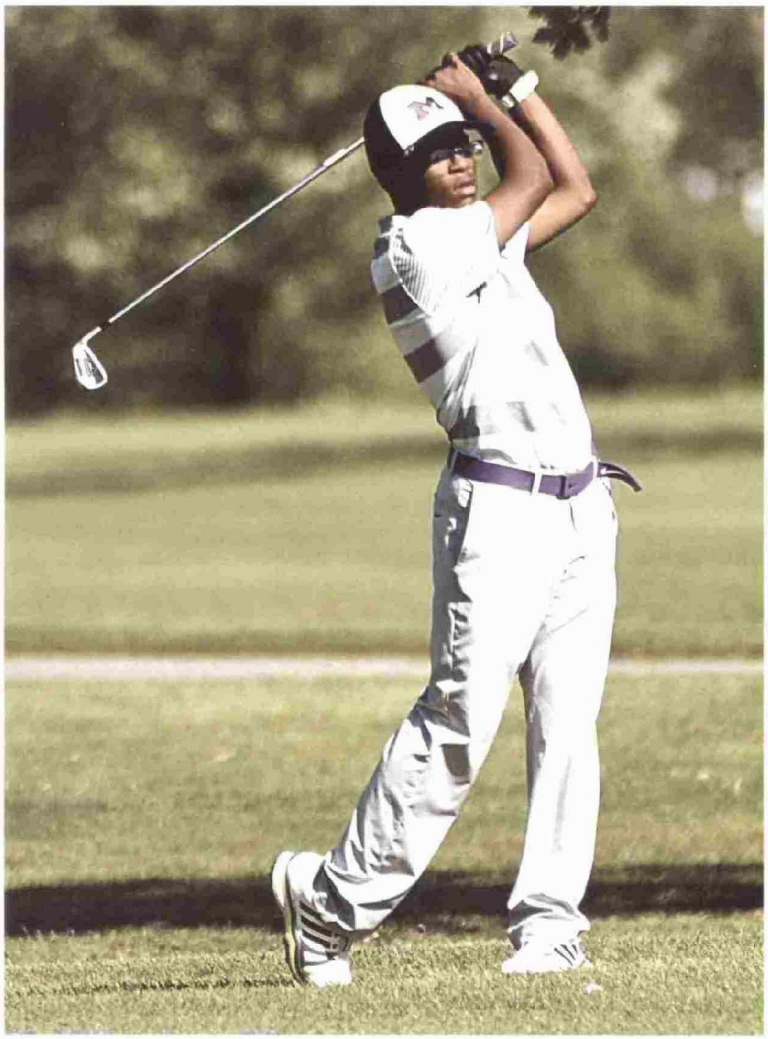
As she prepares to serve, No. 1 singles Senior Emily DeCausemaker focuses on the placement of her serve before she tosses the ball and strikes it into the opposite serving box . DeCausemaker has been playing tennis since sixth grade, and this year she moved to the No. 1 singles spot. "My sister's coach told me to join," DeCausemaker said. "So, I joined because of the coach."



Focusing on the ball, Sophomore Nijaia Jones gets ready to use her backhand skill. Team members credit Jones' form and her volleys for her success on the team. "The season is going better than expected with a new coach," Jones said. "We're still getting better and we'll be better next year." Jones moved from the JV team last year to varsity this year.

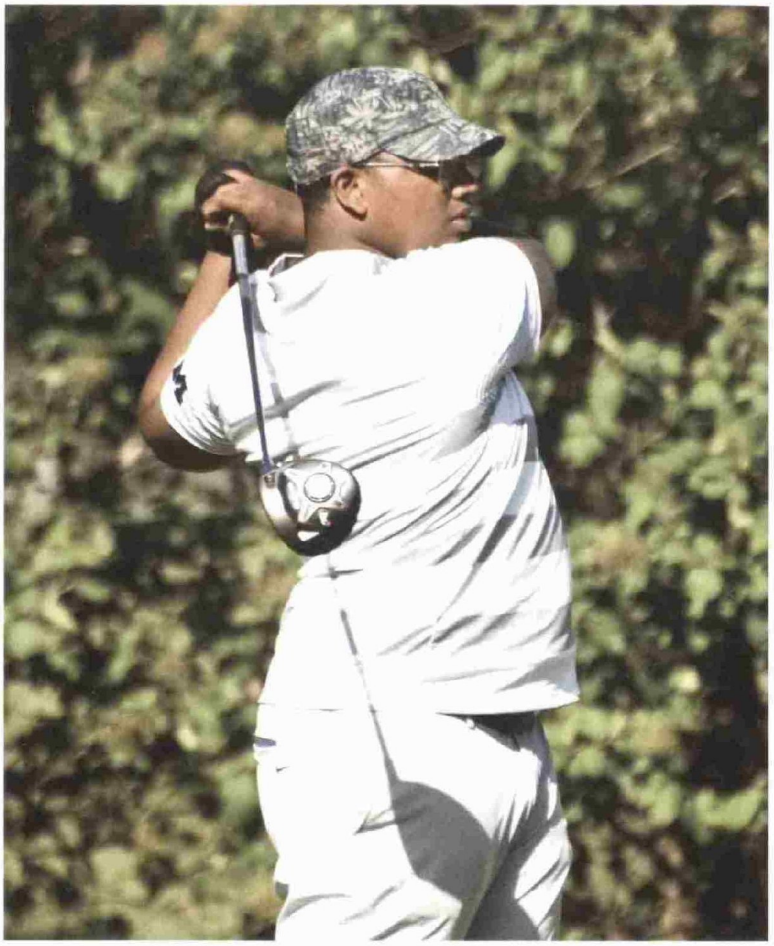
From the baseline, Junior Kamri Smith returns the ball to her opponent. "My best memory was bonding with my team on the bus," Smith said. Smith's goal was to play harder than last year. "I tried my best this season," Smith said. "I improved a lot from last year." Smith played No. 1 Doubles on the JV team last year, and this year she moved to the No. 2 Doubles spot on varsity with Junior Allure Calhoun.

On his follow-through, Junior Angelo Strong watches the golf ball travel down the fairway. "I just played for fun at first, and then when I got to high school, I thought I would try out for the team," Strong said. He said his goals for next season are to make good contact with the ball and apply himself more by practicing any chance he can get.



Practicing his swing, Senior Elijah Royal prepares to hit the ball. "I like the difficulties of the sport, and it's deeper than just hitting a ball into a hole. There's a lot of thinking going into it," Royal said. Royal said he picks a target, like a stick, and lines up the club and swings. "I originally played baseball, but my dad and I would golf on the weekends, and then it grew on me," Royal said. Royal shot an 83 at the sectional meet at Palmira and advanced to the regional.

After swinging his driver and teeing off, Senior Marcus Norton holds his pose. "This is the best team since I've been here. All of our scores have dropped, and we definitely are more consistent," Norton said. Coach Ben Daniel became the boys' golf coach this year. "He knows the game very well, and anyone who comes along that is new, he will work with and helps," Norton said. Norton will continue to play in college, and he said he wants to play professionally. He said that his biggest supporters are his parents, teammates and coaches.

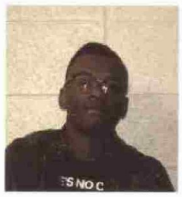


In the finishing position after hitting a tee shot at the team's home course, Turkey Creek Country Club in Merrillville, Sophomore Justin Villanueva watches the ball travel through the green. In his first year playing on the golf team, Villanueva has played every varsity match. "He has come along very well as a first-year golfer," Coach Ben Daniel said. "I look forward to working with him for the next two years."

Players see steady improvement

Eying the green, Junior Keith Rochefort plans his putting strategy. "I've definitely improved from last year. My swing is better, and the ball goes straighter," Rochefort said. Despite dealing with bad weather throughout their season, the team beat Michigan City, marking the first win over another Duneland Athletic Conference (DAC) school this year.

What's in your golf bag?



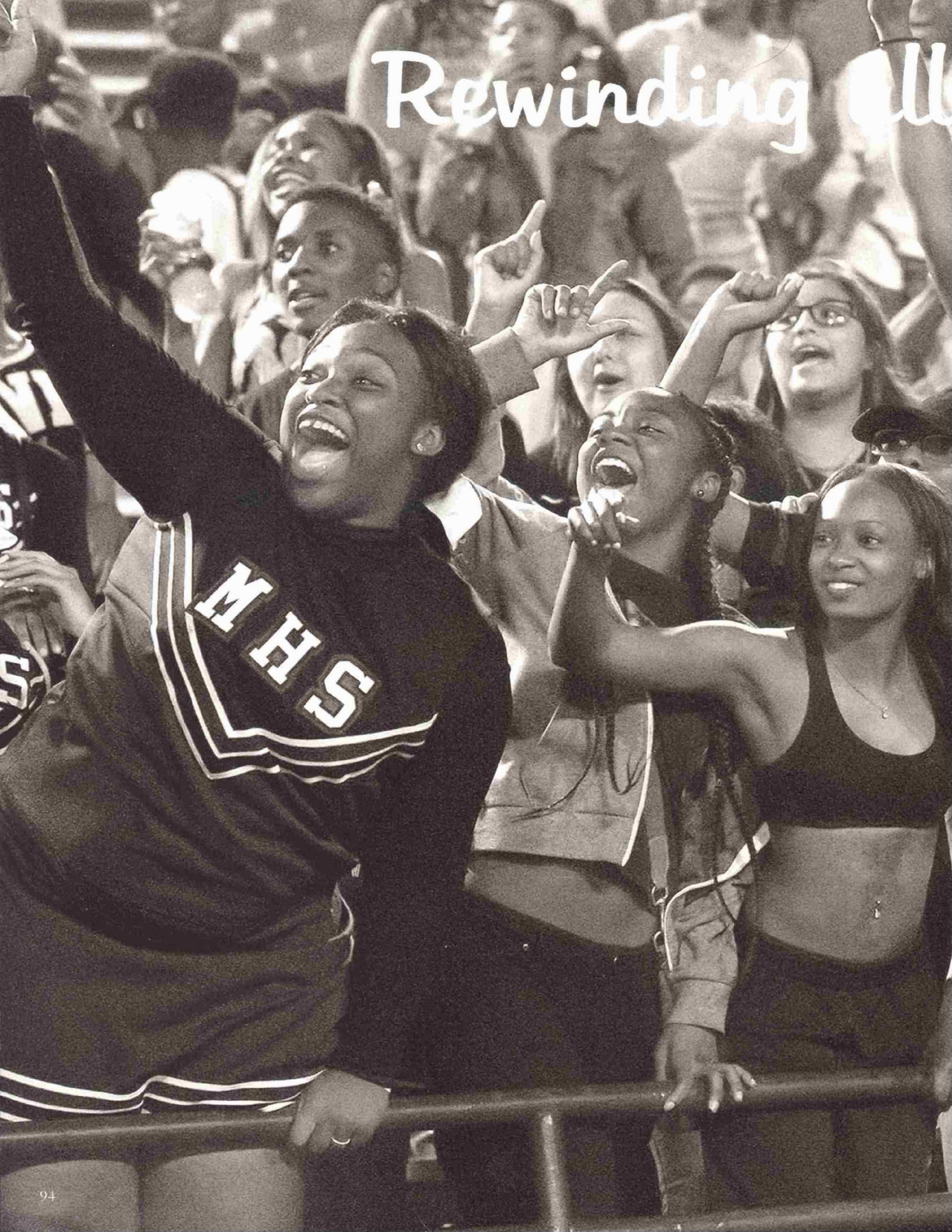
Special ball marker, golf balls, putting arc
Elijah Royal

Golf balls, tees, lots of snacks, ball markers, gloves and water
Carlos Sims

Headband, Blackhawks marker, golf balls, gloves, water and my golf clubs
Marcus Norton

Boys' Golf

Opponent	Win/Loss	Score
Portage Invite		5th of 8
Lowell	W	177-189
Tri-Meet		
vs. LaPorte	L	180-199
vs. Portage	L	175-199
Tri-Meet		
vs. Valparasio	L	156-185
vs. Chesterton	L	159-185
Boone Grove Invite		1st of 9
Tri-Meet		
vs. Chesterton	L	168-216
vs. Lake Central	L	174-216
LaPorte	L	177-181
Lake Central Invite		13th of 15
DAC		7th of 8
Sectional		7th of 11


Rewinding
MHS

of the happiness

Cheering in the annual Battle of Broadway against Andrean High School, fans in the stands voice their support at the first home game in August in Demaree Stadium. Leading the cheers are Senior Jay'lon Gordon and Junior Emily Lesich. Fans saw the team win, 35-7. "I love how everyone in the stands were shouting out 'everybody eats' and how the guys came out together as a team," Lesich said.

'01-'02 Babies

Kamera Abram
Cecilia Adame-Davalos
Tyson Adams
Damilola Akinbobuyi
Yasmeen Al-Ayyah
Kayla Alcox
Adriene Alexander
Alexis Alexander

Bobby Allen
Heaven Allen
Desiree Alleyne
Amani Alvarez
Taira Amisu
Elijah Anderson
Omarion Andrews
Samuel Anguiano

Gabriela Aponte
Elaiza Araiza
Austin Argullin
Beau'shay Armstead
Amnah Asghar
Ephraim Aung
Kaelyn Austin
Azariah Avery

Leonardo Bailey
Tatianna Bailey
Autum Bainbridge
Matthew Ball
Shawn Ballard
Janae Bandy
Delilah Barajas
Jordan Barksdale

Journey Barksdale
Collin Barron
Shamiya Beasley
Gage Bentley
Christopher Best
Antonia Blair
Ariana Booker
Jordan Booker

Bryanna Boone
Jarell Boone
Joshua Boone
Imani Bowen
Deonna Bowens
Djarae Boykin
Romella Bozeman
Aniahya Bradley

Joshua Brady
Benjamin Brayfield
Jeda Briner
Joshua Brooks
Tariq Brooks
Mikayla Brookshire
Halaiya Brown
Haleel Brown

Mark Brown
Princess Brown
Caroline Buckrop
Jennifer Bugarin

Breanna Buggs
Robert Buggs
K'Lohn Burns
Alexander Butz

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

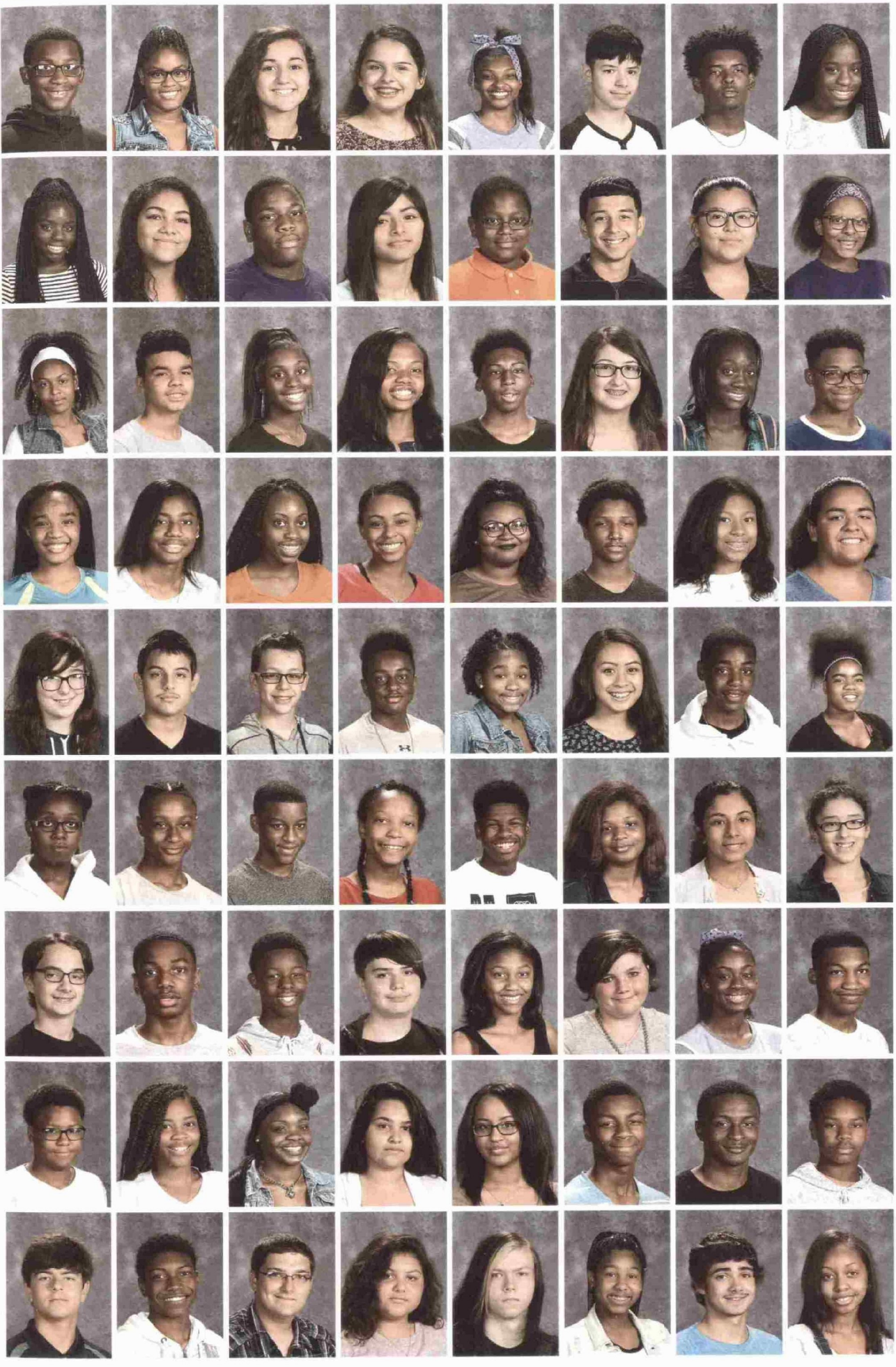
Two truths & a lie

1. The school year goes by fast.
2. You should take it seriously.
3. The lunch is disgusting.

Deverieux Coleman

Coleman: 3 is a lie

Class of 2020



Micah Bynum
Diamond Cannon
Ariel Carbajal
Lorena Carbajal
Jorriana Carey
Sebastian Carrillo
Darius Carrington
Lavonne Carson

Shavonne Carson
Adrianna Carter
Antonio Carter
Isela Casique
Jarrett Cason
Christopher Castaneda
Laurie Castaneda
Ashanti Castleberry

Elecia Catron
Jesus Cerda-Sandoval
Lailoni Chamberlain
Arianna Chatman
Kevin Chatman
Brooklyn Chilcott
Fatou Cisse
Jaden Clark

Mercedes Clowers
Armani Cole
Kaiya Cole
Deverieux Coleman
Sanaia Collier
Kristian Collins
Razariah Combs
Kaylee Conner

Jalen Conti
Axel Contreras
Joshua Cook
Dorcas Cooper
Keyari Cooper
Jodi Corrales
Daniel Cotton
Tiffany Coulter

Ameylah Cox
Jathan Crawley
Elijah Crenshaw
Shawnte Crenshaw
Devon Crews
Jaylah Croft
Keili Cruz
Jacquelyn Cuevas

David Cullum
Dahmian Cundiff
Trevaris Cuthrell
Jason Daniel
Sade' Daniel
Samantha Daulton
Caiyla Davis
Courtney Davis

Elijah Davis
Jazreail Davis
DeKara Dawson
Joyce Decia
Leila Dika
Brian Dilosa
Damian Dixon
Jamarcus Dixon

Nikola Djukic
Steven Dortch
Jordan Dunn
Monique Duque
Michael Duran
Kennedi Durham
Jacob Eassa
Tajah East

'01-'02 Babies

Zhanvie' Edmond
Nataysia Edwards
Yantrel Edwards
Tatiana Eldridge
Josiah Ellison
Raven Embers
Brittnee English
Bryce Ervin

DaKarri Ervin
Na'yanna Ervin
Kevin Espino
Lorenzo Espinoza
Emily Estefania
William Evans Jr.
Jadon Exford
Sharetha Ezeako

Courtney Ferguson
Ashanta Fields
Anthony Figueroa
Deven Flournoy
Lance Forbes
Kolby Ford
Kristina Ford
Teaun Ford

Kaylee Fortier
Dionjonae Franklin
Darius Frierson
Joseph Froglia
Makayla Funches
Matthew Gagliano
Jaiel Gamble
Anissa Garcia

Emily Garcia
Malachi Garrett
Nicholas Garrett
Briazha Garron
Brylen Gaskin
Alexandria Gholson
Jaylynn Gholson
Kayla Gibson

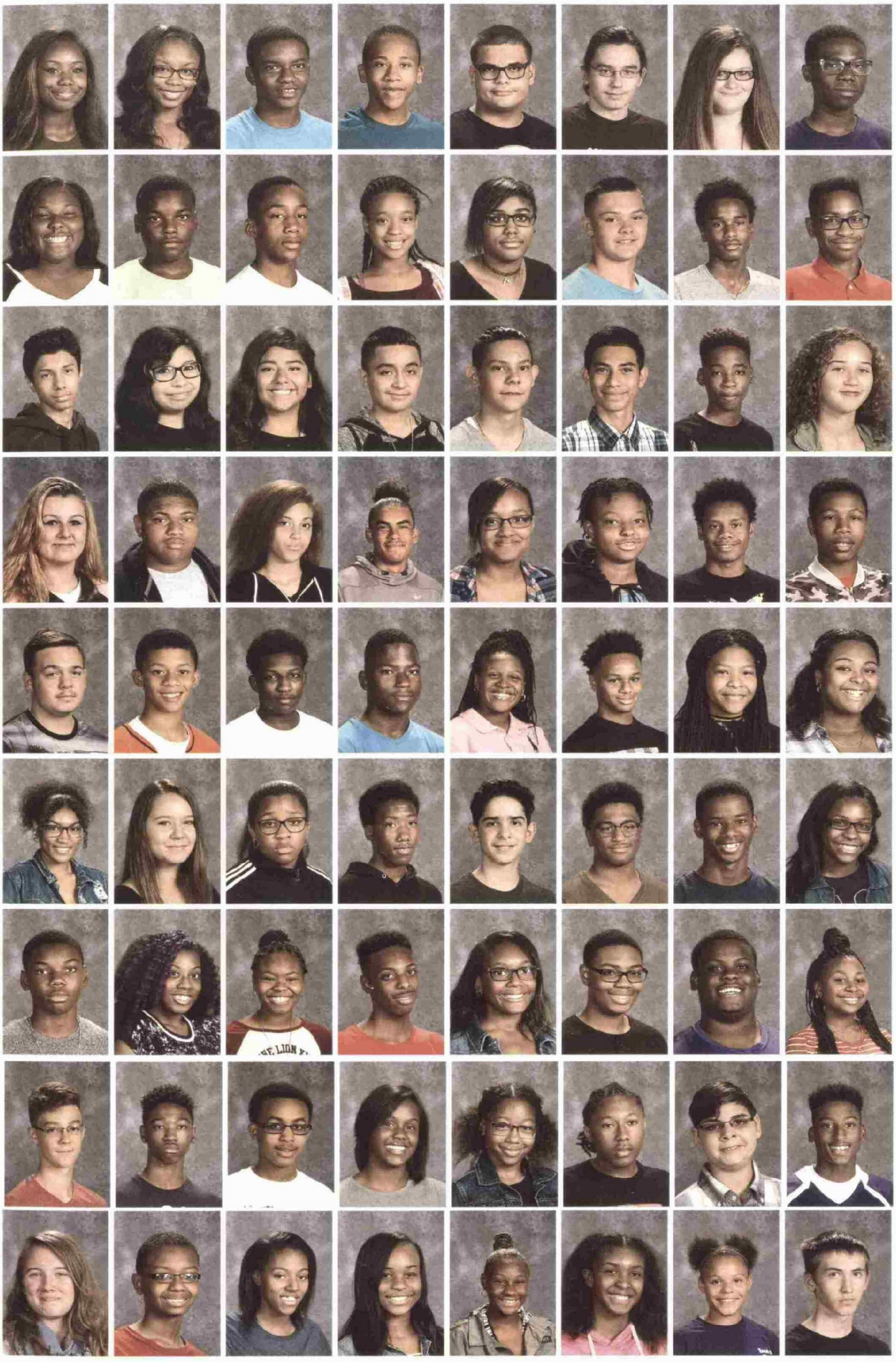
Kylie Gidley
Marquis Gilbert
James Gillespie
Jalen Givens
Maya Glass
Kevin Glass III
Dominique Golden
Jared Golston

Citlali Gomez
Christian Gonzalez
Yulissa Gonzalez
Emmanuel Gonzalez-Ruiz
Eric Goodes
Jaihla Gordon
Dale Gough
Terrell Grace

Darius Green
Takiema Green
Robyn Greene
Richard Grey
Demetria Griffin
Mitchell Gromek
Maria Guardiola
Alenah Guerrero

Michelle Gunnell
Cristian Gutierrez
Jayda Guyton
Skyler Guzman
Maleya Hall
Trinity Hammack
Ja'Tavion Hardy
Garrett Harmon

Class of 2020



Chairre Harris
Kaiya Harris
Lindell Harris
Noah Harris
Austin Harshaw
Robert Hasan
Corrin Haughee
Jairius Hayden

Carlaya Hayes
Carlos Hayes
Kenneth Hayes
Jaquisha Haymon
Kristyl Haymon
Steven Hedrick
Christian Hemphill
Isaiah Henderson

Briantt Herman-Gama
Cierra Hernandez
Evelyn Hernandez
Gregorio Hernandez
Manuel Hernandez
Martin Herrera
Garry Higgins IV
Sadia Hildebrand

Alexandria Hlaner
Cayman Holley
Maryanna Hollins
Eric Hollowell
Annalise Holmes
Amaya Howard
Jaunte Howard
Jeremiah Howard

Michael Hubbard
Leslie Hudson
Rodney Hudson
Xavier Hughes
Faith Hunter
Brandon Hutton
Jazmine Hytower
Justine Imes

Nadja Ireland
Chasity Irizarry
Ariyana Irving
Jermel Jackson
Ali Jaime
Jahriel Jenkins
Adonnis Johnson
Alexes Johnson

Darion Johnson
Imani Johnson
Janice Johnson
Terryon Johnson
Keyerra Jolley
Jaylen Jones
Justyn Jones
Darriona Jordan

Jacob Josleyn
Marcus Kendrick
Kenneth King
Amaya Kirk
Mercedes Kurtis
Kobe Lackey
Trevor Lanctot
Davin Latiker

Sara Laurain
Montral Lee
Chanelle LeGrand
Rajani Lemon
Mikayla Lemons
Amare'e Lenoir
Ashanti Lenoir
Rylan Lewandowski

'01-'02 Babies

Jacqueline Lewis
Martes Lewis
Janee' Lockwood
Jasmine Looney
Joshua Lopez
Dionna Lowe
Jacob Loyd
Zaria Lucious

Brianna Luttinen
Patience Lyles
Jaylin Maffett
Juwan Maffett
Kennedy Mahone
Matthew Makarowski
Gabrielle Malave
Jacob Maldonado

Montea Mallett
Diamond Manning
Kwabena Marfo
Zachary Martin
Gabriel Martinez
Mason Martisauskas
Mary Manis
Kayla Mason

Jaysen Massie
Michael Mathews
Ariyanna Matthews
Erinae Mayo
Gabriel Mayo
Itez Mayo
Ma'Kayla Mays
Jennifer Mbachu

Eric McCallister
Kyla McCoy
Darrieonna McDaniels
Janae McFerrin
Maelynn McGarrity
Justin McGee
Travien McGee
Lawrence McIntosh

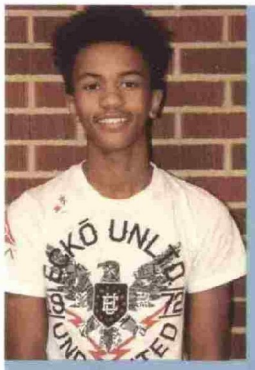
Ryan McLaughlin
Jaliyah McMahon
Jasean McMillon
Jacob Melendez
Nathan Mendoza
Lex Mercer
Ja'niyah Miller
Nathanial Miller

Royale Miller
Raelynn Mitchell
Jada Moffett
Daryl Mohn
Joel Montero
Destiny Montgomery
James Montgomery
Akeila Moore

Brandon Moore
Elijah Moore
Jaron Moore
Kira Morando

Maurice Morgan
Cheyenne Moton
Eugene Mryszuk
Maurice Muhammad

Taylor: 2 is a lie



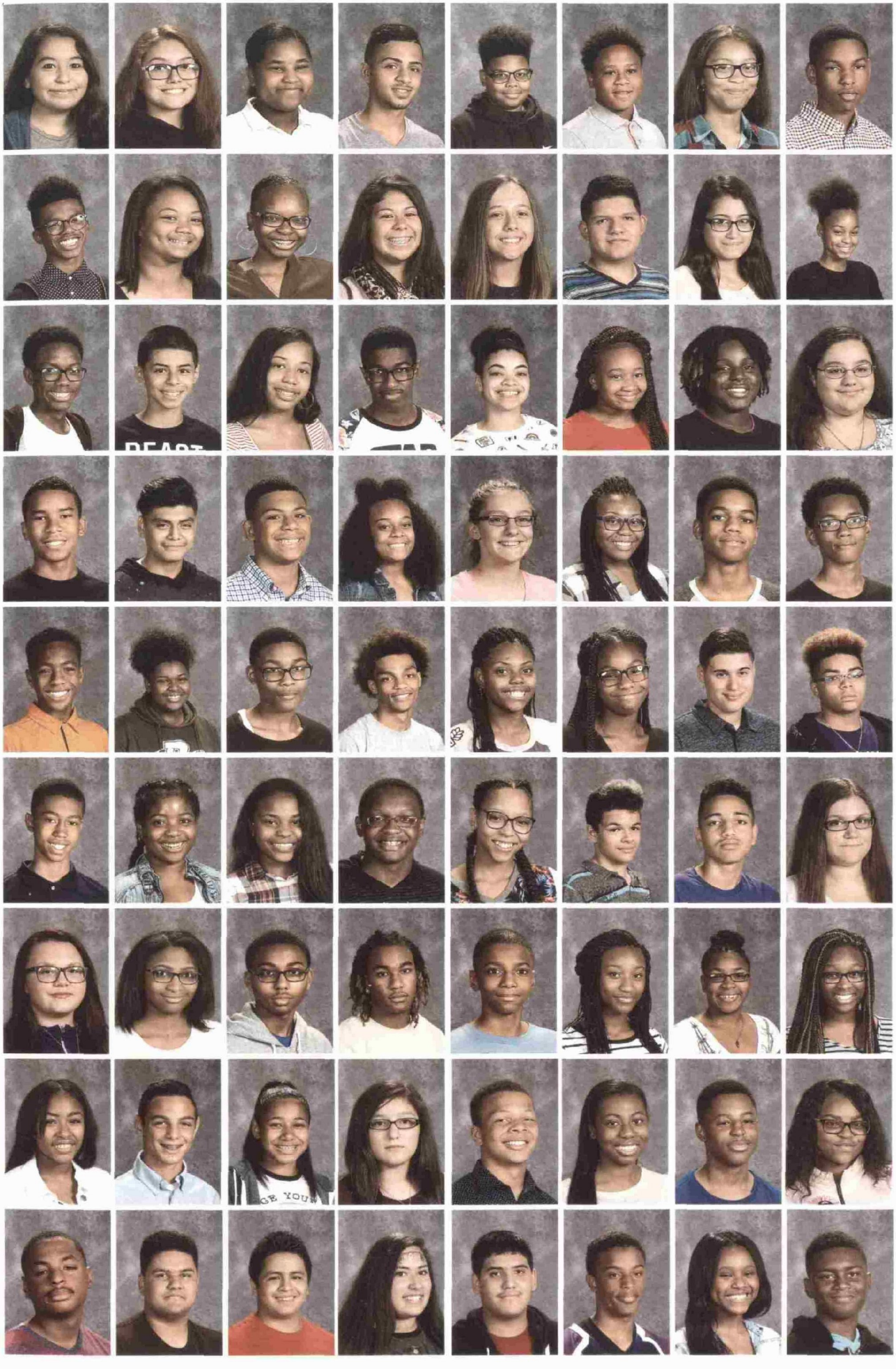
Jafar Taylor

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

Two truths & a lie

1. The school year goes by fast.
2. Your classes are really hard.
3. You have a lot more freedom.

Class of 2020



Itzel Munoz
Joslyn Munoz
Alexandria Murphy
Basel Musleh
Dexter Nalls
Dejuan Nash
Joy Negron
Rickey Nelson

Jaeden Newman
Shaiana Norwood
Dorothy Oduwaye
Natalie Ordonez
Katelyn Orosco
Enrique Ortiz
Maria Osoria
Labrea Palmer

Korey Parker
Adrian Parra
Shakyrah Parson
Maurice Patrick
Tyler Patterson
Deja Payne
Travis Payne
Maja Pejovski

Armon Peloza
Gustavo Pena
Jorge Perez
Courtney Perkins
Caitlin Perosky
Aaliyah Perry
Anthony Pettigrew
Ahmari Petty

Nigel Phillips
Daziele Pierson
Irvin Pirtle
Keith Pirtle
Aniaya Plainer
Asia Porter
Christopher Poulos
Isaak Powell

Edward Prentice
Ashanti Price
Kihya Price
Nicholas Price
Samaria Price
Kameron Priest
Christian Pryle
Kaitlin Raddatz

Haylee Rangel
Paige Raspberry
Malik Reese
Tyrail Rias
Jakob Rice
Alanna Richardson
Aiyauna Riley
Ariel Riley

Elizabeth Riley
Anthony Rivera
Jasmyne Rivera
Victoria Rivera
Aryah Robertson
Amina Robinson
Aquivian Robinson
Dakota Robinson

Jahkove Robinson
Angelo Rodriguez
Carlos Rodriguez
Maria Rodriguez
Michael Rodriguez
Peter Rodriguez
Tea Roland
Darrius Ross

'01-'02 Babies

Nicholas Ross
Chyna Royster
Nya Russell
Rebecca Saluska
Aminah Samba
Kenyatta Sams
Leah Sams
Diamond Sanders

Jalil Sanders
Rachel Sandifer
Elijah Sandridge
Brisa Sanford
Angel Santos
Celine Sargent
Chanice Sawyers
Ryan Scher

Darius Schultz
Matthew Schwartz
Jack Scolaro
Janelle Scott
Osiris Selby
Kristopher Serrato
Camren Shaffer
Uthon Shaw-Mitchell

Xzavier Shell
Malachi Shields-Hutchin
Jamesha Simmons
Jerimiah Simon
Angel Simpson
Crystal Sims
Skye Skimehorn
Jillian Skokal

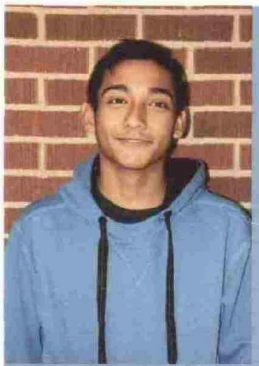
Abigail Smith
Aeryana Smith
Christina Smith
Daryll Smith
Heavenly Smith
Phillip Smith
Jordan Sonnier
Steven Southall

Willis Spates
Logan Spencer
Javonne Spivey
Kobi Stephens
Emily Stevens
Jaden Stewart
Deshawn Strickland
Maciah Swope

Aniyah Talbert
Leila Tape
Ayonna Taylor
Jafar Taylor
Shontiana Terry
Briana Thomas
Kevin Thomas
Reiana Thomas

Alakay Thompson
Jason Thompson
LaVell Thompson
Malika Tillman

Lavader Tiney
Jon Tomlinson
Keyaira Torbert
Jay'da Trammell



Samuel Angiano

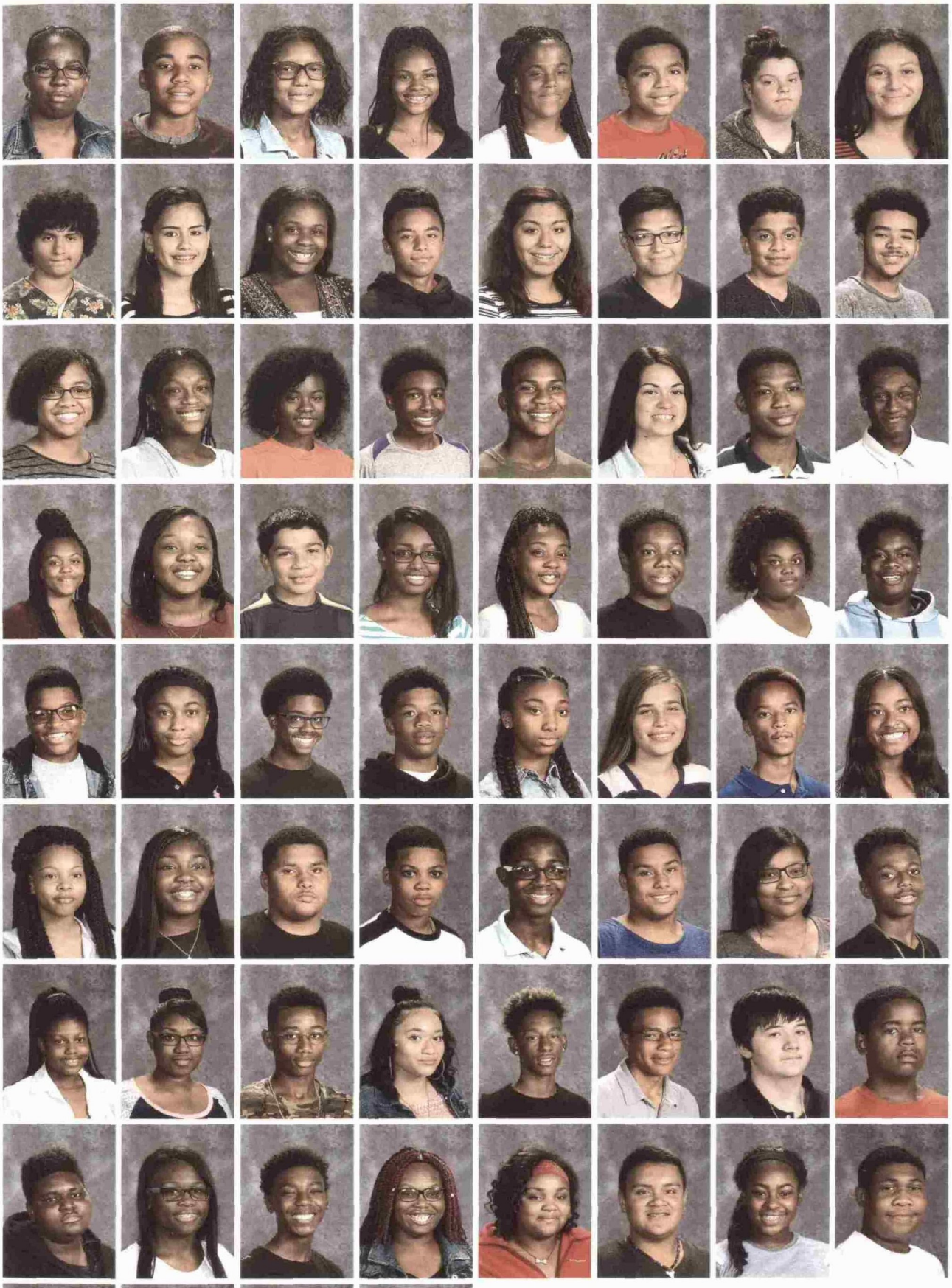
LOOK WHO'S TALKING

Two truths & a lie

1. The school work is hard.
2. The classes are more challenging.
3. You have more freedom.

Angiano: 1 is a lie

Class of 2020



Tianna Travis
Edward Tucker
Aniya Turentine
Aaliyah Turner
Morgan Turner
Tyler Turner
Sophia Upchurch
Alexandra Varela

Alberto Velasco
Jacqueline Velasco
Caitlynne Vickerstaff
Jesse Villarreal
Itzel Viramontes-Renteria
Austin Vo
Isaiah Vorice
Roden Wade III

Cierra Walker
Destiny Walker
Ja'Leah Walker
Jerry Walker
Khris Walton
Sierra Ward
Brandon Ware
Doran Ware

Daja Warren
Kennede Washington
Dennis Watson
Mariah Watson
Dajanay Weaver
Kevin Westbrook
Dana Wheatley
Kyree Whisenton

Pharris Whitcomb
Jaliyah White
Jeremy White
Aahric Whitehead
Alayah Whiteside
Angelina Wilkins
Ajani Williams
Angelique Williams

Ashanti Williams
Desirae Williams
Devonte Williams
Eric Williams
Jeremiah Williams
Jevonte Williams
Jewel Williams
Malachi Williams

Michellea Williams
Myla Williams
Tylee Williams
Zaraya Williams
Zion Williams
Anthony Williamson
Jesse Williamson
Isaiah Wilson

James Wilson
Shania Wilson
Angelo Winfield
Desire' Witherspoon
Diamond Wofford
Nathan Woods
AAliyah Wright
Michael Wroten

Margaret Wujek
Donmeique Yates
Lauren Young
Torey Young

Not Pictured: Brian Birchall, Julian Carrejo, Marcus Dent, Eddie Drake, Dre'Shon Garrett, Gabriell Gordon, Kayla Hamdani, Marie Hardy, Mattie James, Paige Lain, Justin Landers, Jesse McCoy, LaNiya Nabors Williams, Amarie Polk, Marley Ramos, Desenia Ryan, Aaliyah Sharks, Terell Sharp, Jada Stewart, Layana Taylor, Emmanuel Thigpen, Alexander Thompson, Keyon Ware, Keyirah White, Dasani Williams, Kameron Williams, DeShaun Williams.

'00-'01 Babies

Jakailyn Aaron
Ali Abdullah
Nathan Acosta
Alyse Adams
Oluwaseyi Akinwumi
Dakari Alford
Josiah Alford
Majed Ali

Vincente Altieri
Nicolas Ambrose
Sebastian Anda
Darielle Anderson
Diavian Anderson
Isaiah Annan
Dezirey Arceo
Madisyn Armstrong

Myjae Armstrong
Bilal Asghar
Anthony Atria
Michael Austin
Amya Aviles
Arianna Aviles
William Ayers
Travis Babbitt

Khari Baker
Jericho Balderas
Rishard Balkcom
Tyson Ballard
Darryon Bandy
Da'Vante Banks
Jennifer Baray
Darion Barber

Jose Barboza Garcia
Sarah Barnes
Cortez Battle
Chyelle Baylor
Laya Beatty
Roderick Bell
Roshaud Bell
Makayla Berry

Gordon Biffle
Sabrina Blacks
Miller Blackwell
Scarlett Blanco
Sasha Boone
Deja Briner
Marissa Broom
Diamond Brown

Kaila Buggs
Melanie Bunkley
Brookelyn Burks
Ajanae Burley
Amaya Butler
Imani Butts
Dahjanee Bynum
Angelica Cabello

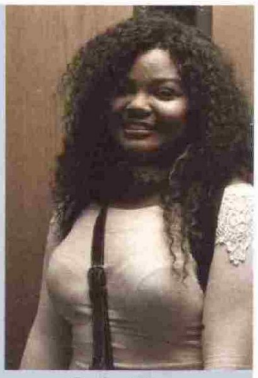
Elijah Camargo
Da'Quinae Campbell
Tavia Campbell
Jordan Camper

Joe Campos
Barbara Carbajal
Camron Carcelli
Jordan Carey

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

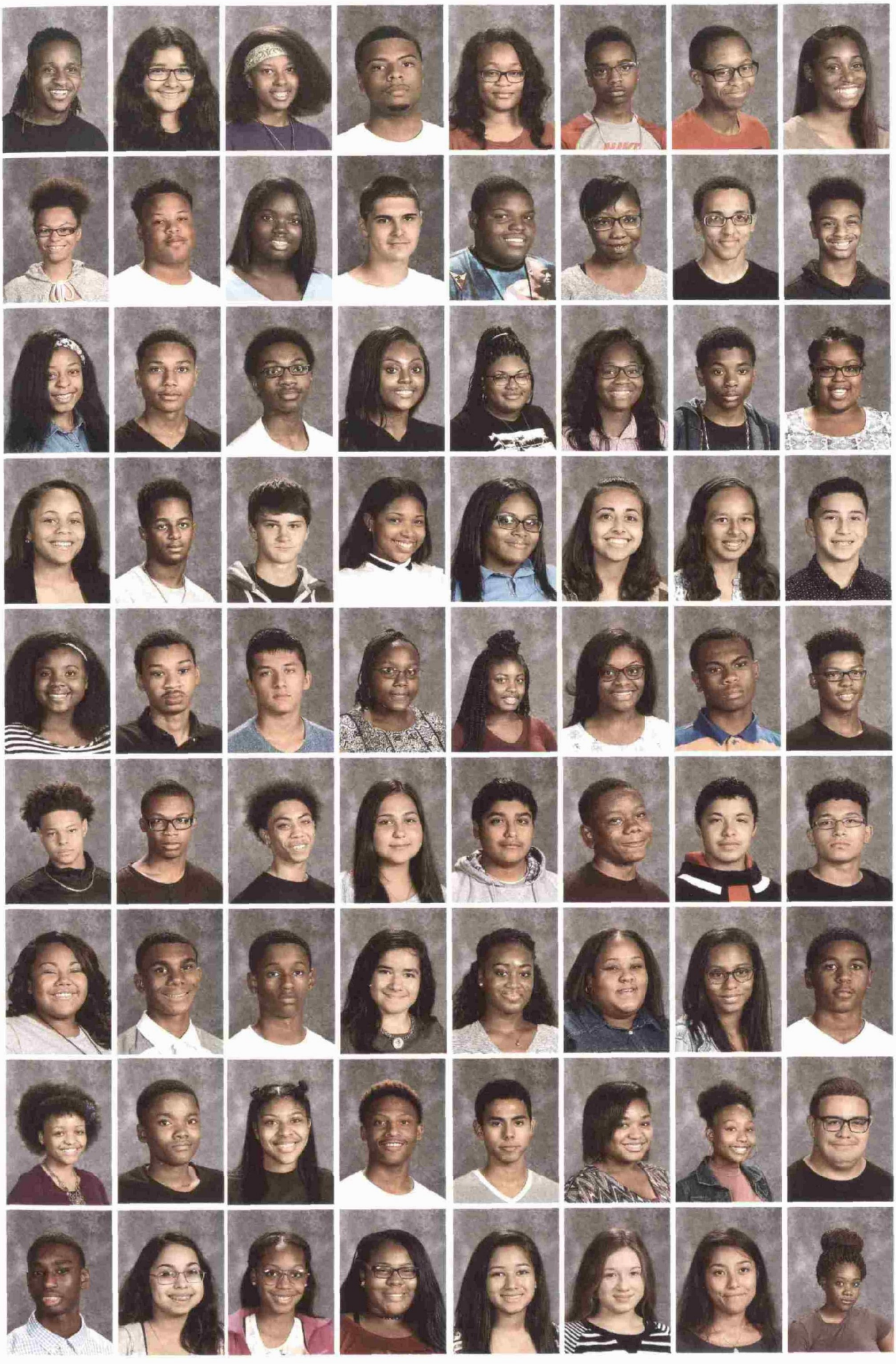
2 What is something you have that others don't?

4 I have confidence and I don't care what others say. I'm my own person.



Sasha Boone

Class of 2019



Trayvon Cargo
Vanessa Carrillo-Ramos
Annie Castleberry
Mikey Chambers
Najalynn Chandler
Qwamaine Chandler
Cameron Chenault
Michonn Cherry

Angelina Clark
Davon Clark
Nialah Clay
Alvino Clifford
Maleek Cole
De'Jae Coleman
Jonathan Collins
Keenan Collins

Caliyah Cooper
Davion Cooper
Elisha Cooper
Aniyah Cox
Rosharia Crawford
Jasmin Creal
Richard Crook
Jamala Crosby

Dashania Crowder
Jontrell Crowder
Michael Croy
Arri'Qua Crump
Crystal Cruse
Chyna Cruz
Leilani Cruz
Martin Cruz

SaSha Dailey
Andrew Dalton
Raymond Davila
Isis Davis
Jai'la Davis
Madyson Davis
Miles Davis
Wesley Davis

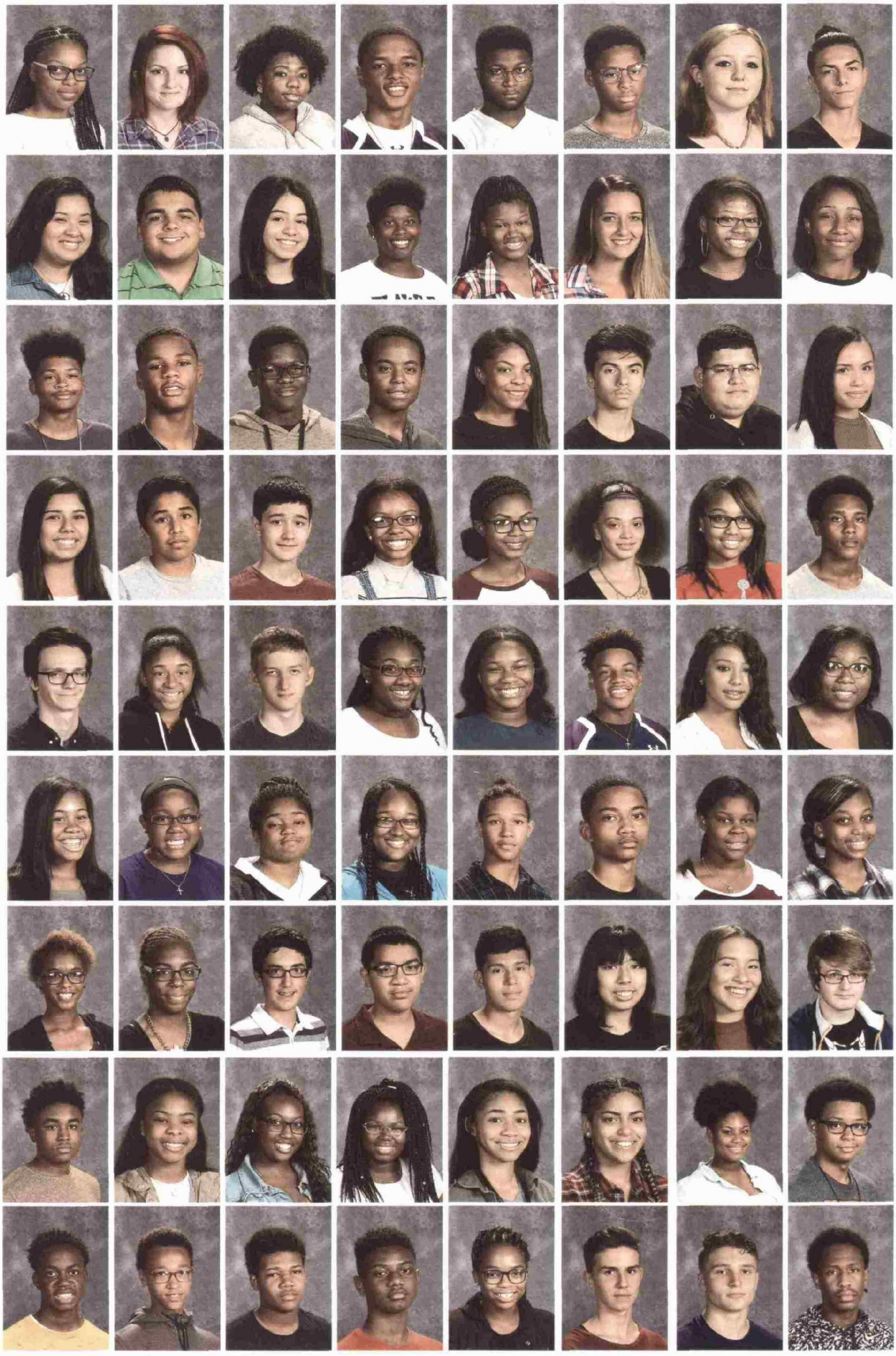
Shareef Dawson
Jovan Day
Jeremy Dean
Stephanie Del Real
Diego De La Cruz
Jalin Delaney
Michael Diaz
Sebastian Diaz

Jaylah Dix
Jacob Dockins
Larell Dow
Diana Drake
Mariam Duke
Savona Dukes
Azariah Durant Horton
Daymond East

Justin Edgeston
Aniya Edwards
Alianna Encinas
Milan Ervin
David Estefania
Jada Evans
Jordan Evans
Giovani Feliciano

Ernest Ferguson
Alexa Fernandez
Alicia Fields
Naomi Fields
Cheyenne Figueroa
Brooke Finch
Jacqueline Flores
Teanna Ford

'00-'01 Babies



Brianna France
Virginia Frazier
Tiarah Freeman
William Fulton
Michael Gaines
Christon Galbreath
Iris Galvan
Anthony Garcia

Destiny Garcia
Izaac Garcia
Sandra Garcia
Eelecia Garron
JaDavia Gavin
Brandi Geminder
Kha'Deidra Gilbert
Tatiana Gilbert

Earskin Gildon
Kevon Gill
Jaylen Glass
Alex Glover
Amber Glover
Julian Gomez
Oscar Gomez
Vanessa Gomez

Natalia Gonzales
Tomas Gonzalez Ruiz
Caleb Goodman
Tamera Goodwin
TeOnna Gordon
Jasia Gosanko
Angenae Grady
Daijon Gray

Benjamin Green
Da'Nijah Green
Justin Green
Brittney Greer
Gia Gridiron
Marc Guerrero
Melissa Gutierrez
Destiny Hall

Clarke Halliburton
Jade Hamilton
Courtny Hampton
Miracole Hare
Jordan Harmon
Jaleel Harris
Kimbreyona Harris
Sierra Harris

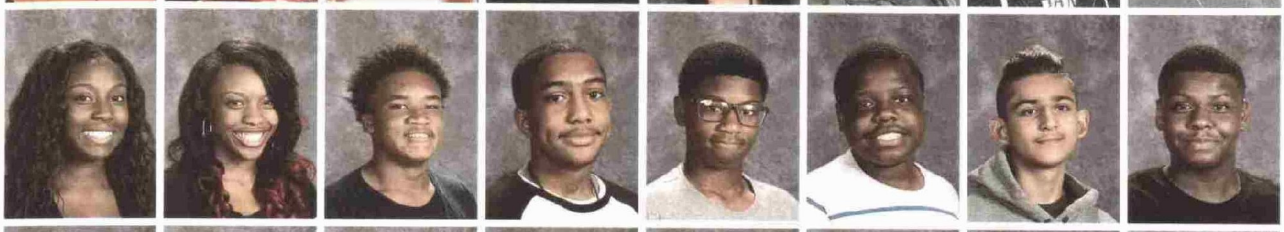
Domineke Haymon
Jyllean Haymon
Adrian Hernandez
Daniel Hernandez
Marco Hernandez
Sofia Hernandez
Raina Hertl
Cameron Heuse

Antwand Hickerson
Imani Hicks
Anjel Highbaugh
Charlese' Hill
Trinity Hobbs
Jae'da Hobson
Karynton Holliday
Jordan Holmes

Sidney Holmes
Deshaun Hoover
Isaiah Hopkins
Keith Hopkins
Shayla Houston
William Houston
Jared Howard
Tyvion Howard

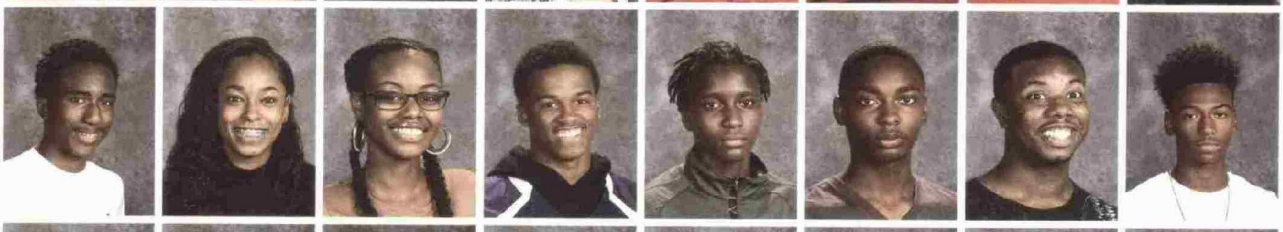
Class of 2019

Devin Howell
Jimaris Hutch
Jordan Hutchinson
Kyrylo Iesypenko
SaNiah Isabell
Kyndel Ivie
Breaz Jackson
Demond Jackson

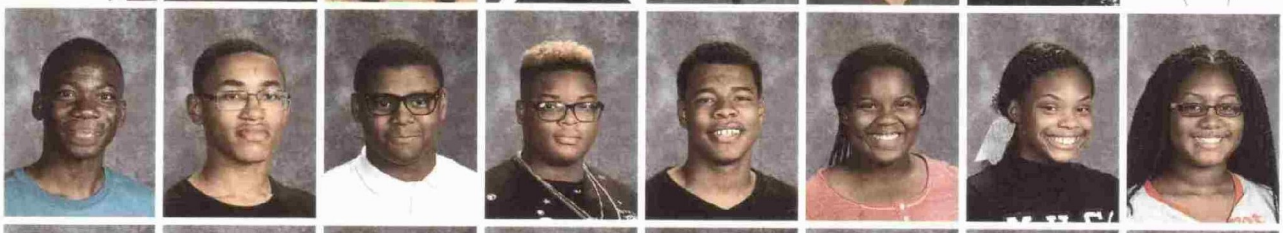


Diaviyon Jackson
Frances Jackson
Jewel Jackson
Jordan Jackson
Justin Jackson
Reggie Jackson
Said Jaime
Lloyd James

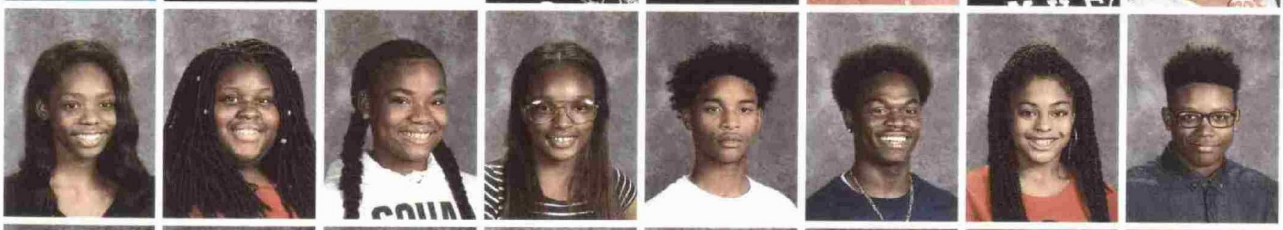
MaKala James
A'Mya Jamison
Eric January
Arianna Jarrett
Caleb Jarrett
Amari Johnson
Anthony Johnson
Daria Johnson



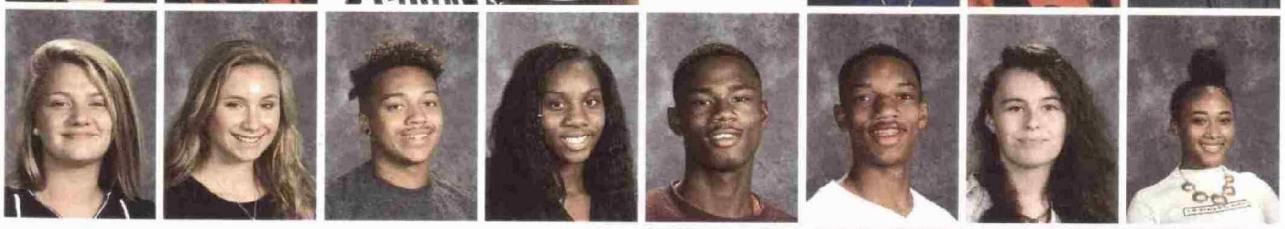
DaVeyon Johnson
Kennedy Johnson
Tacoya Johnson
Yashar Johnson
Cameron Jones
Ceon Jones
Davion Jones
Deon Jones



Derrick Jones
Isaiah Jones
Jalen Jones
Keith Jones
Marshon Jones
Moriah Jones
Nadia Jones
Nijaia Jones

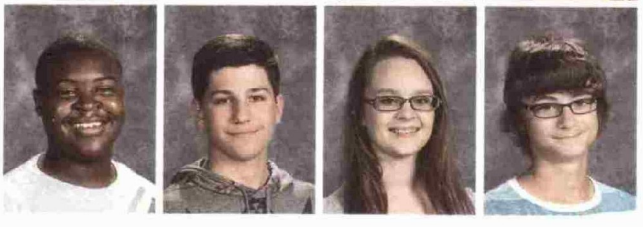


Nora Jones
Shamiya Jones
Sirmatha Jones
Tykia Jones
Andrea' Jones Jr.
Darius Jordan
Durriana Jordan
Keiaueri Joseph

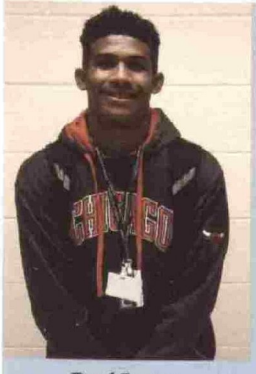


Alexandra Karbowski- Thompson
Hailey Karpen
Andrew Keehn
Ron'nekia Kelley
Abre' Kemp
Eric Kendrick
Brianna Kenyon
Jermani' Keys

Jordan Kincade
Antoine King
Kaysea King
Madison King



Xavier King
Joshua Kirksey
Sabrina Krueger
Cameron La Belle



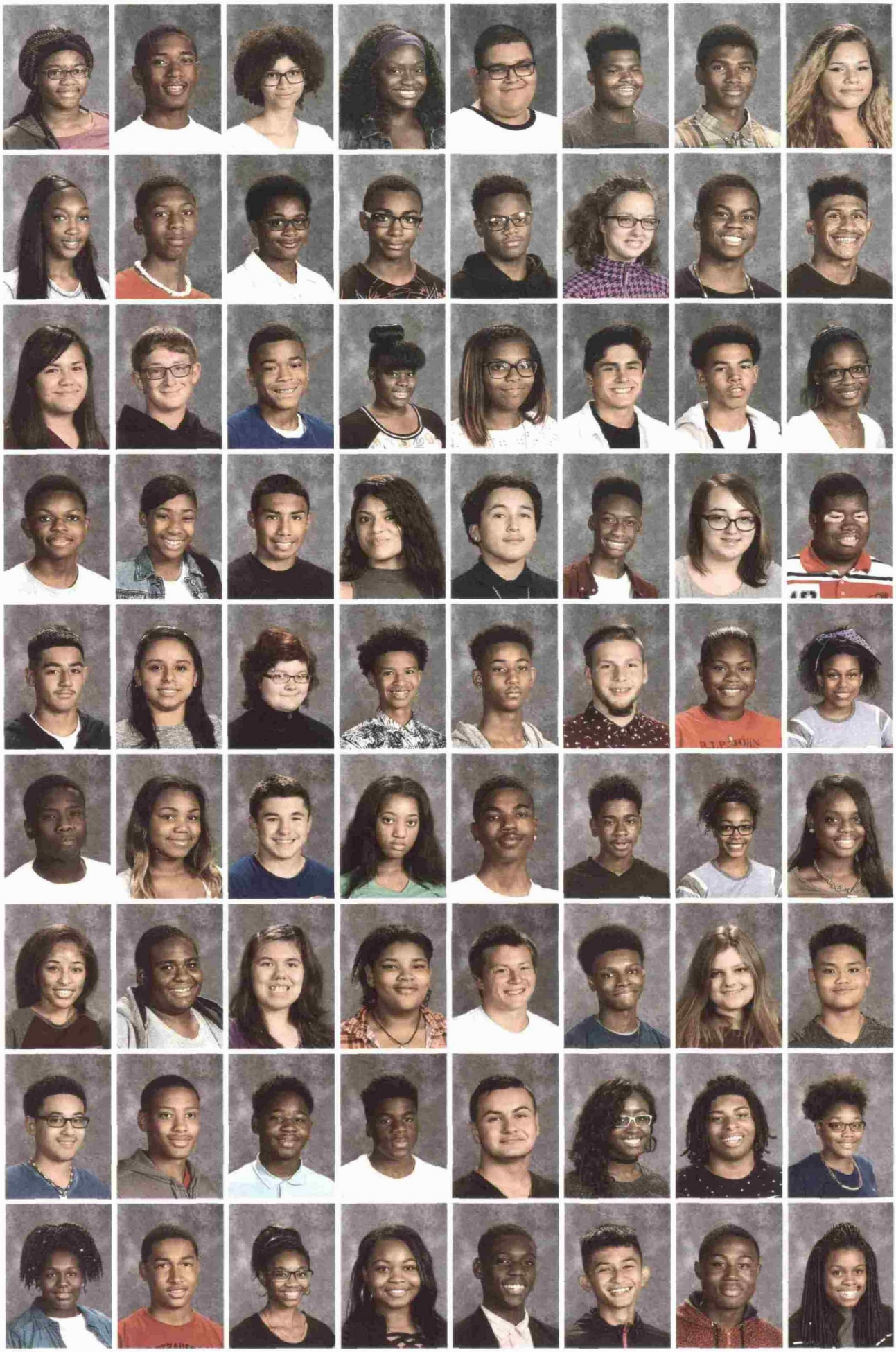
Paul Lopez

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

2 If you can change one school rule, what rule would it be?

4 You don't have to wear your ID and boys can wear sleeveless shirts.

'00-'01 Babies



Arielle Lackey
Keyshawn Lackey
Jaden LaRue
Jadyn Lawson
Daniel Ledesma
LeDarryl Lee
TYondae Lee
Angel LeGrand

Alexia Lewis
Daniel Lewis
Jaden Lewis
Julian Lewis
Jevon Lindsey
Gabrelle Lobins
Alejandro Lopez
Paul Lopez

Sabrina Lopez
Cameron Louthan
Donte Lowe
Jada Lowe
Talayah Lowery
Brandon Lucero
Romeo Luna
Tiana Lyles

Amari Madry
Icess MaGee
Juan Maldonado
Nina Maldonado
Jessie Marquez
Donovan Marteen
Hailee Martin
Maurice Martin

Axel Martinez
Karla Martinez
Majel Martinez
Xavier Martinez-Scott
Jadon Mason
Isaiah Maynard
Aniya McClendon
Madison McClendon-Moore

De'Vonte McCollum
Kenosha McCullough
Jacob McDonald
Tamera McEwen
Tyrese McGee
Jordan McGoffney
Payton McHenry
Kayla McKinnon Bell

Aliyah McLain
Ronald McMullan
Regina Meeker
Lakadia Merritte
Trayten Mikesell
Charles Milam
Anna Miljkovic
Joshua Milla

Rejon Miller
Jamal Milton
Michael Mitchell
Shamari Mitchell
Nikola Mitich
Lauren Moody
Edward Moore
Jasmine Moore

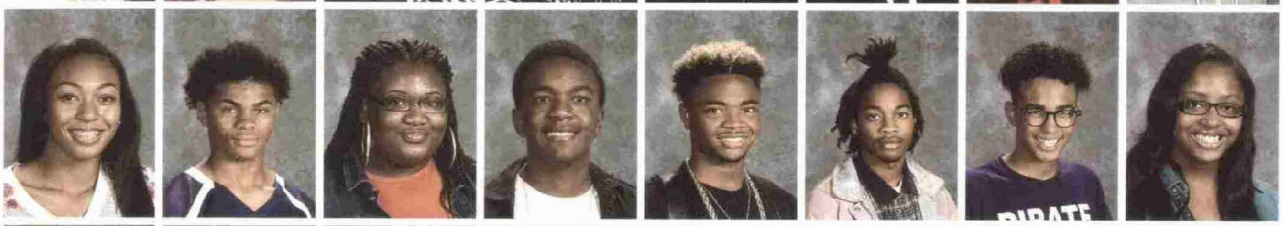
Kaliyah Moore
Armand Morris
Latoria Moss
Maryam Muhammad
Jordan Munchenburg
Masayoshi Nangin
Aubrey Neal
Tasha Neal

Class of 2019

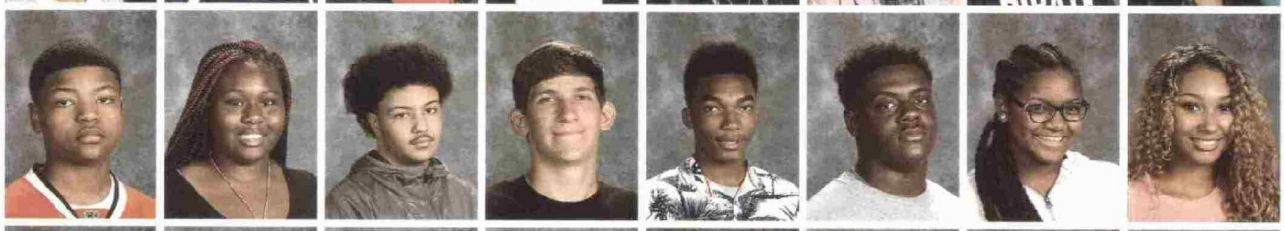
Kylah Nicholson
Janae Noble
Symone Norman
Gabriel Ochoa
Kemi Oduneye
Alyssia Ornelas
Antonisha Paine
Briana Palmer

Alexus Palomo
Kayla Parkham
Deep Patel
Samaria Patrick
Samora Patrick
Ma'Kaela Patterson
Klimentina Pejovski
Colin Pell

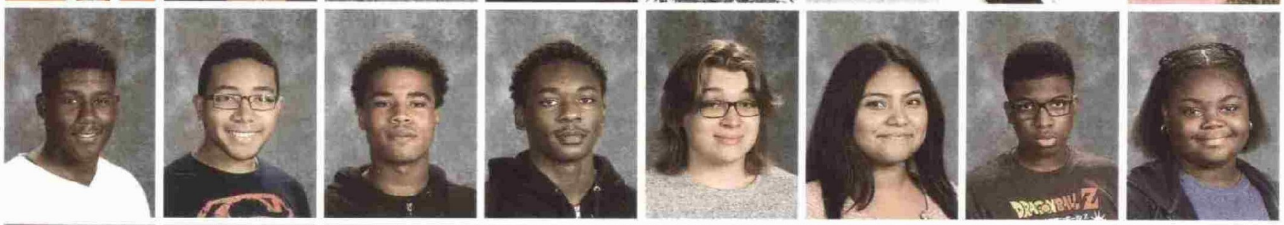
Scarlett Peralta
Jailene Perez
Ashyah Perry
Ty Perry
Hailey Perryman
Kaylin Peterson
Fajayan Peterson-Mosley
Trendarious Peterson-Mosley



Kaniyah Pharms
Jordan Phelps
Jasmin Phillips
Le'Brone Phillips
Dameon Pinkins
Brandon Platts
Devin Pope
Maria Pratt

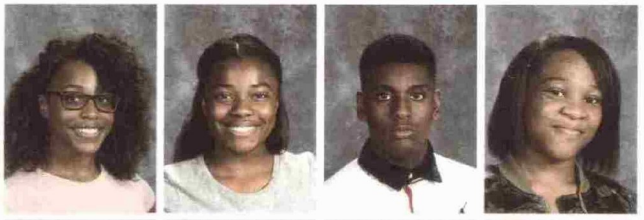


Keith Price
Amari Pryor
Noah Pryor
Joshua Raddatz
Rackesh Ragoo
Justen Ramsey
Caylin Randall
Bailey Rapavi



Jalen Ray
Isaiah Rayburn
Dejon Readus
Malcolm Reese
Lucas Reinhart
Elizabeth Reyes
Myles Reynolds
Travonyah Reynolds

Curtis Rias
Lynia Richardson
Diabolique Ridle
Ariana Riley
Tamila Riley
Devonta Rimmer
Javier Rivera
Kayla Roberson



Cheyenne Roberts
Serena Robertson
Alonzo Robins
Alexis Robinson

Aubin Robinson
Britney Robinson
Chanel Robinson
Jarred Robinson

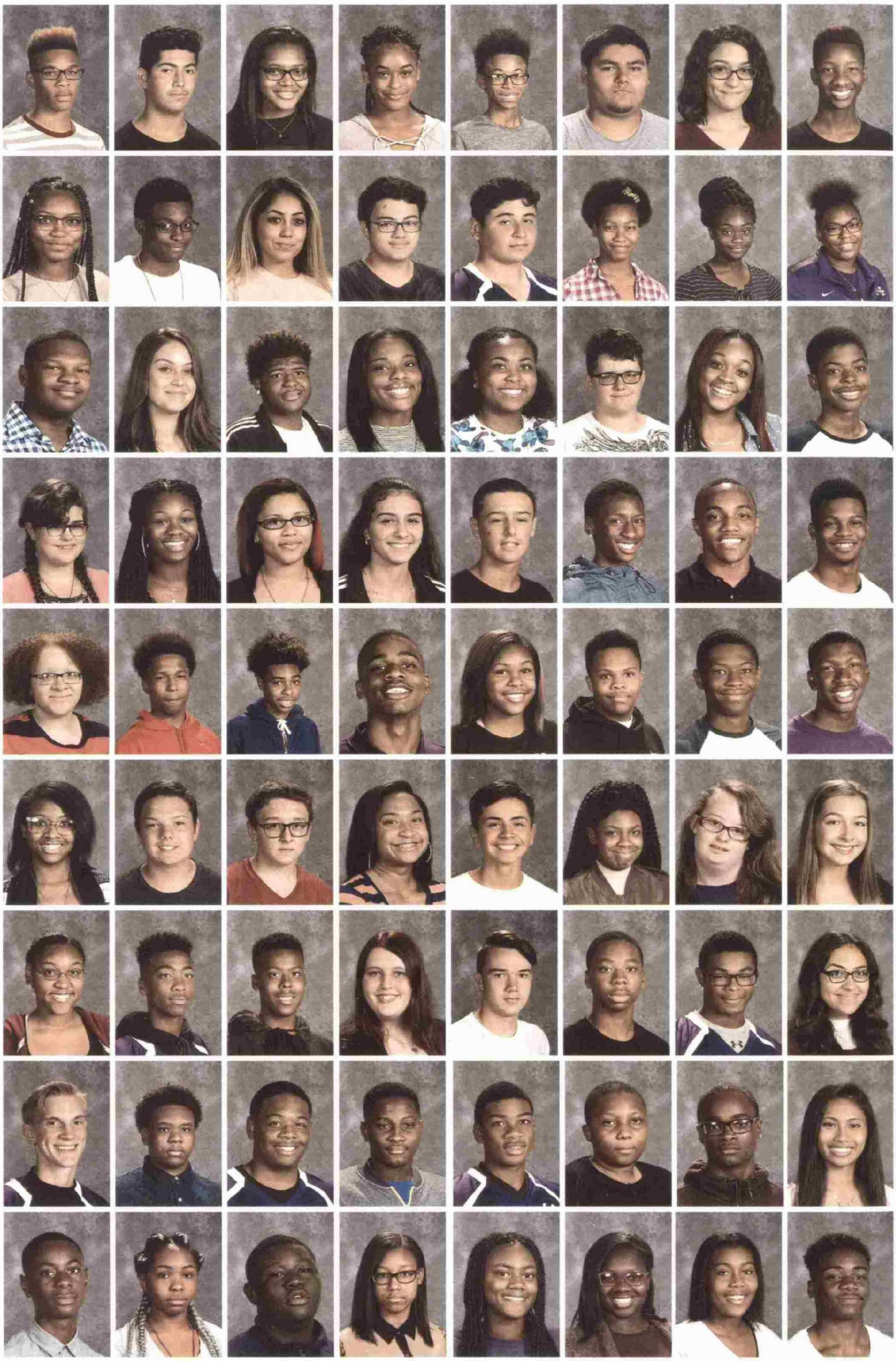
LOOK WHO'S TALKING

If you were a school principal, what rules would everyone have to follow?

1. Dress code
2. No sleeping

Makayla Berry

'00-'01 Babies



Jaylen Robinson
Kevin Robles Urena
Joi Roche'
Angel Rodgers
Robert Rodgers
Nicolas Rodriguez
Serena Roldan
Arieus Ross

Kristah Royster
Lavari Ruffin
Emily Ruiz
Ivan Sahagun
Emilio Salas
Alissa Sales
Isatou Samba
Bionca Sams

Aaron Samuels
Annalise Saul
Joseph Scott
Makayla Scott
Nina Scott
Taylor Scott
Zoe Sease
Kristen Semmes

Carly Sheets
Crystal Shelby
Blessed Shelton
Aleni Shomo
Aaron Short
Demetrian Shorter
Luke Shufford
Tremell Sinclair

Alexis Smith
Christian Smith
Christopher Smith
Devione Smith
Geanna Smith
Jered Smith
Jeremy Smith
Joenathan Smith

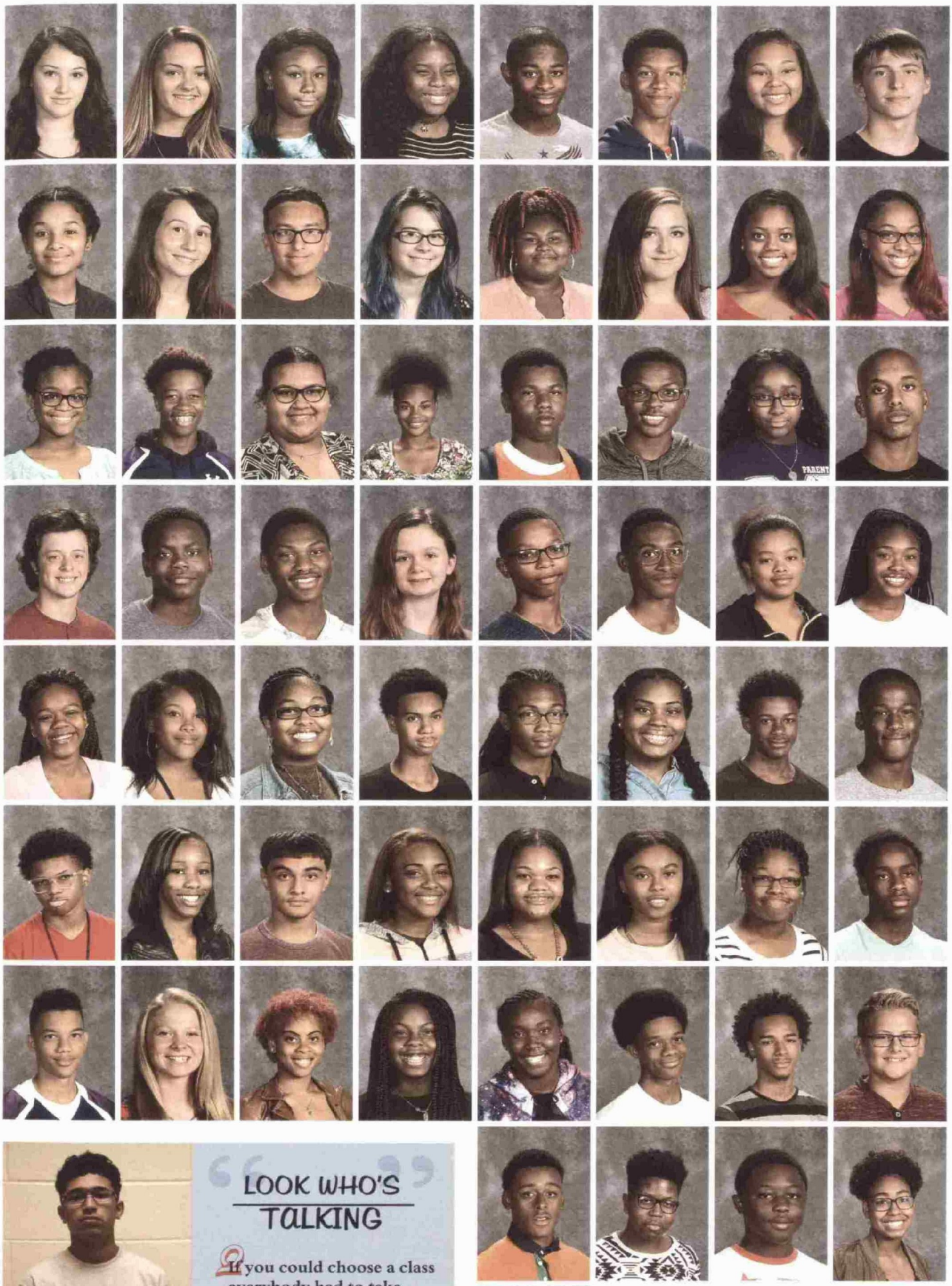
Taijah Smith
Bryan Sobczak
Dylan Sotak
SanTana Southall
Jonathan Spates
Ocean Starks
Hanna Stevens
Olivia Stevens

Letrese Steverson
Dykeil Stingley
Nyelle Stingley
Brook Stone Byerly
Sven Strom
Labaron Strongs
Kenneth Stubblefield
Reem Sulieman

Timothy Sunny
Tyrese Surney
Jaylen Suttles
Marcellus Swain
Anthony Swims
Jairus Sykes
Messiah Talley
Maria Tan

Nigel Taylor
Leanne Tennione
Daveon Thomas
Janaye Thomas
Kelli Thomas
Lauryn Thomas
Acaiya Timmons
Deondre Todd

Class of 2019



Angelina Trevino
Gwyneth Troupe
Kayana Turner
Kendra Turner
Ronald Turner
Yancy Tyler
Mont'eisha Underwood
Ryan Underwood

Daniella Uvalle
Lavana VanCuren
Justin Villanueva
Anna Vinson
Briany Wagner
Kailey Walaszek
Kiyah Walker
Rockia Walker

Camille Walls
Bobby Walton
Brianna Ward
Kira Warren
Jehmiah Washington
Robert Waterford
Erryonne Watts
Maurice Weaver

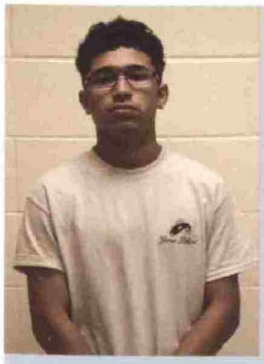
Jacob Weber
Jamal Weston
Damon Wheatley
Ellecia White
Joseph White
Marvin White
Alexis Whiteside
Andrea Whitfield

Shyaire Wiggins
A'Dajah Williams
Courtni Williams
Da'trell Williams
Derek Williams
Haily Williams
Jawanza Williams
Kevon Williams

Kobe Williams
Nicole Williams
Rico Williams
Tyanna Williams
Tiyzhane Williamson
Daiyanna Wilson
Jada Wingate
Mason Wolf

Dominique Wood
Paige Wood
Angelay Woods
Angelique Woods
Ronisha Woods
Tramone Woods
Traylen Woods
Braden Worthington

Cameron Wright
Jaden Wright
Arshawn Wynn
Kiara Wynne



Sebastian Diaz

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

If you could choose a class everybody had to take, what class would it be?

I would create a class that had something to do with taxes.

Ehren Young

Not Pictured: Drew Bailey, Joshua Benton, Ryan Brown, Courvoisi Brown, Katherine Brown, Daevon Davis, Jashua Diaz Cora, Isaiah Ellis, Bryce Fleming, Zachary Flores, Brooklyn Ford, Makayla Hampton, Cassandra Harper, Ariel Hazelett, Dontrae Henderson, Jamar Hines, Aleesha Hurt, Marc Jeronimo, Tyshonn Jones, Seth Leathers, Keyana Mahins, Shalina McFarland, Malcolm McGhee, Cristal Mena, Kendra Morris, Champaign Mueller, Cashala Myers, Tyana Reaves, Peyton Rose, Isaiah Smith, Jazmine Sylvestal, Love Tanner, Ashley Turner, Jazmin Vargas, Mariah Villarreal, Donesha Washington, Jordynn Winborn, Donovan Wright, Kenzel Wroten, Alexandra Zamarripa.

'99-'00 Babies

Adalberto Acosta
Cora'Taya Adams
Robert Adams
Thomas Adams
Seth Akers
Badea Ali
Matthew Alleyne
Jaime Alvarez

Dionna Anderson
Jamal Anderson
Josiah Anderson
Tyler Anderson
Khamari Andrews
Joseph Aponte
Kenneth Armstrong
Marcus Ashe

Ryan Atkins Frazier
Ferdinand Aton
Kevin Attah
Carlos Avalos
Jamari Averhart
Teaja Ayres
Taylor Ballard
Alanna Bankhead

Daniel Barajas
Keith Barnard
Antino Barnes
Skye Baso
Jordyn Bates
Jasmine Beamon
Jasmine Bell
Johnny Bernard

Paul Berry
Robyn Berry
Dominic Bethel
Justin Bhe
Cara Blanford
Airron Blissett
Jerek Boclair
Paul Bowens

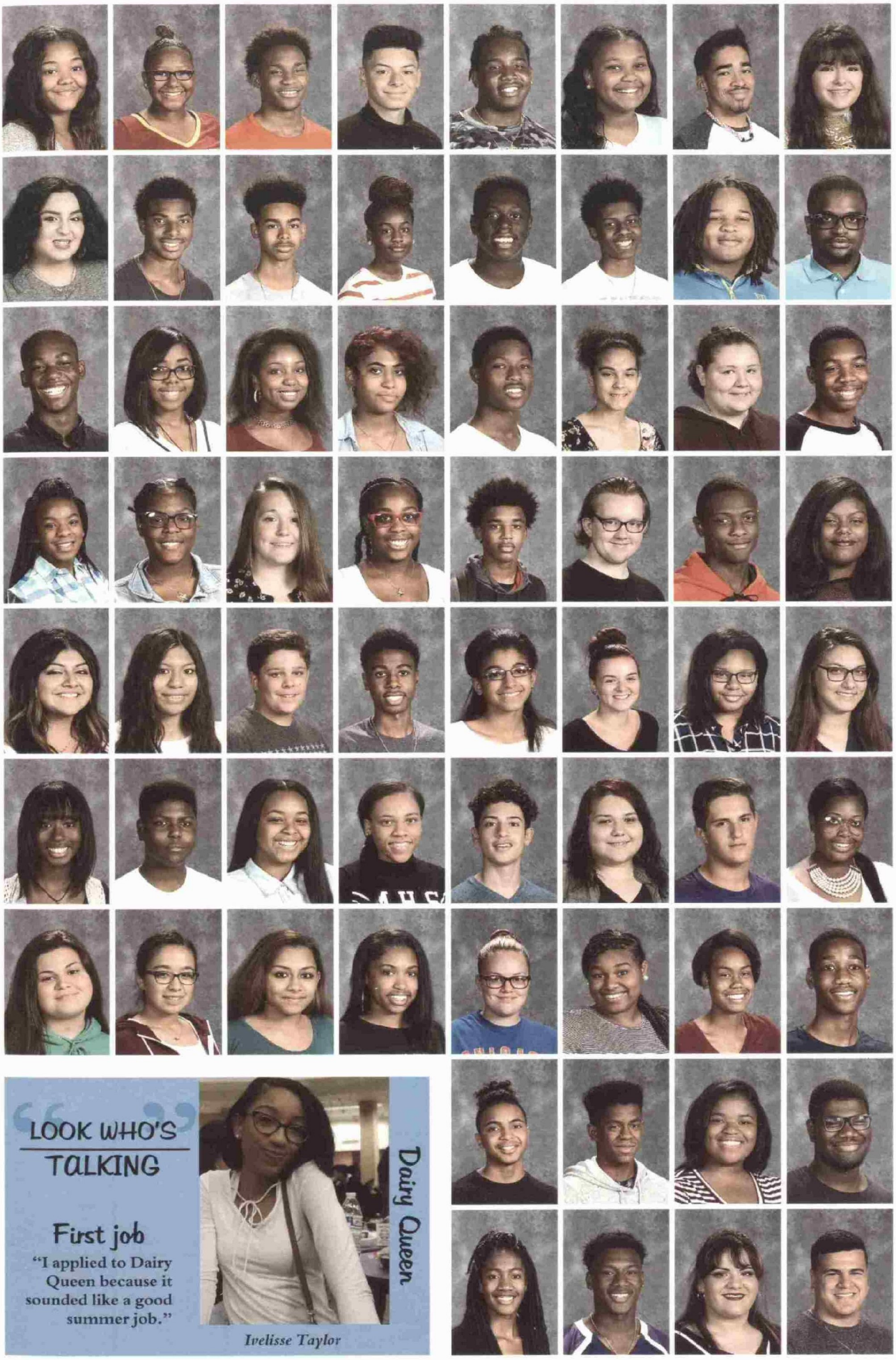
De'sjuan Bowling
Christopher Bowman
Rah'naysha Boyd
Eugene Boyd Jr.
Christian Bracey
Noah Bradley
Britney Brady
Airashaie Brooks

Antonio Brooks
Jaizon Brooks
D'Angelo Brown
Dajamori' Brown
Jamari Brown
Keylian Brown
Ronald Brown
Trevon Brown

Tyler Brown
William Brumfield
Tinotchy Bryant
Airika Buckley
Madison Bullock
Neddie Burks
Dylan Burns
Deanna Burton

Coretta Bush
Wayan Caldwell
Allure Calhoun
Jaizon Calvert
Alejandra Camargo
Davon Cameron
Cayla Campbell
Courtney Campbell

Class of 2018



Michae Campbell
Adrianna Carey
Daniel Carey
Juan Carrillo
Kevin Carter
Kiariah Carter
Reginald Carter
Danielle Castaneda

Lianna Celestin
Ronald Chandler
Armonn Chavez
Dana Cheairs
Maliq Cherry
Nakia Chinn
Daveontay Clark
Robert Clark

William Clay
Jaydah Cobb
Kennedy Cole
Angel Collins
Desmond Collins
Jasmine Collins
Rosario Contreras
DaVeon Coty

Chante Coulter
Qua'lyn Cowart
Savannah Cox
Deameka Crawford
Absolom Crisler
Nicholas Cross
Terrance Cross
Azjanae Cruz

Dulce Cuazitl
Elizabeth Cuazitl
Jason Cuevas
D'Amani Cundiff
Miranda Cuozzo
McKaylah Dalton
Destiny Dantzler
Raeanne Davila

Kinnedi Davis
Brandon Dawning
Briana Dean
Dasia Dean
Alexis Decia
Diana Del Real
Gregory Denisiuk
Monique Denton

Alicia Derr
Abigail Diaz
Ranea Dixon
Keana Dorris
Julia Ducret
Natalya Durham
Natalie Dye
Nathan Dye

Romel Echarry
Alec Edwards
Jada Edwards
Yantre Edwards

Keena Elliott
Davion Ervin-Poindexter
Felicia Estrada
Luis Estrada

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

First job

"I applied to Dairy Queen because it sounded like a good summer job."

Ivelisse Taylor

'99-'00 Babies

Raven Ewing
Kadari Exson
Ayanna Felton
Payton Felton
Bryan Fields
Cameron Figueroa
Wade Flournoy
Kameron Flowers

Kamryn Ford
Jose Fragoso
Maritza Frazier
Czaria Freeman
Cole Frey
Tervoris Fuller
Nichole Gagliano
Te'Reyah Gaines

Aliyah Galliday
Jaylin Gamble
Jessica Gamble
Justin Gamble
Tamil Gamble
Mariah Ganier
Jorge Gaona
Ramon Garcia-Valle

Jhonae Garmon
Cameron Garner
Dalajamane Garza
Kayln Gill
Ta-Tiana Gillis
Christian Glover
Mia Godfrey
Akelah Gonzalez

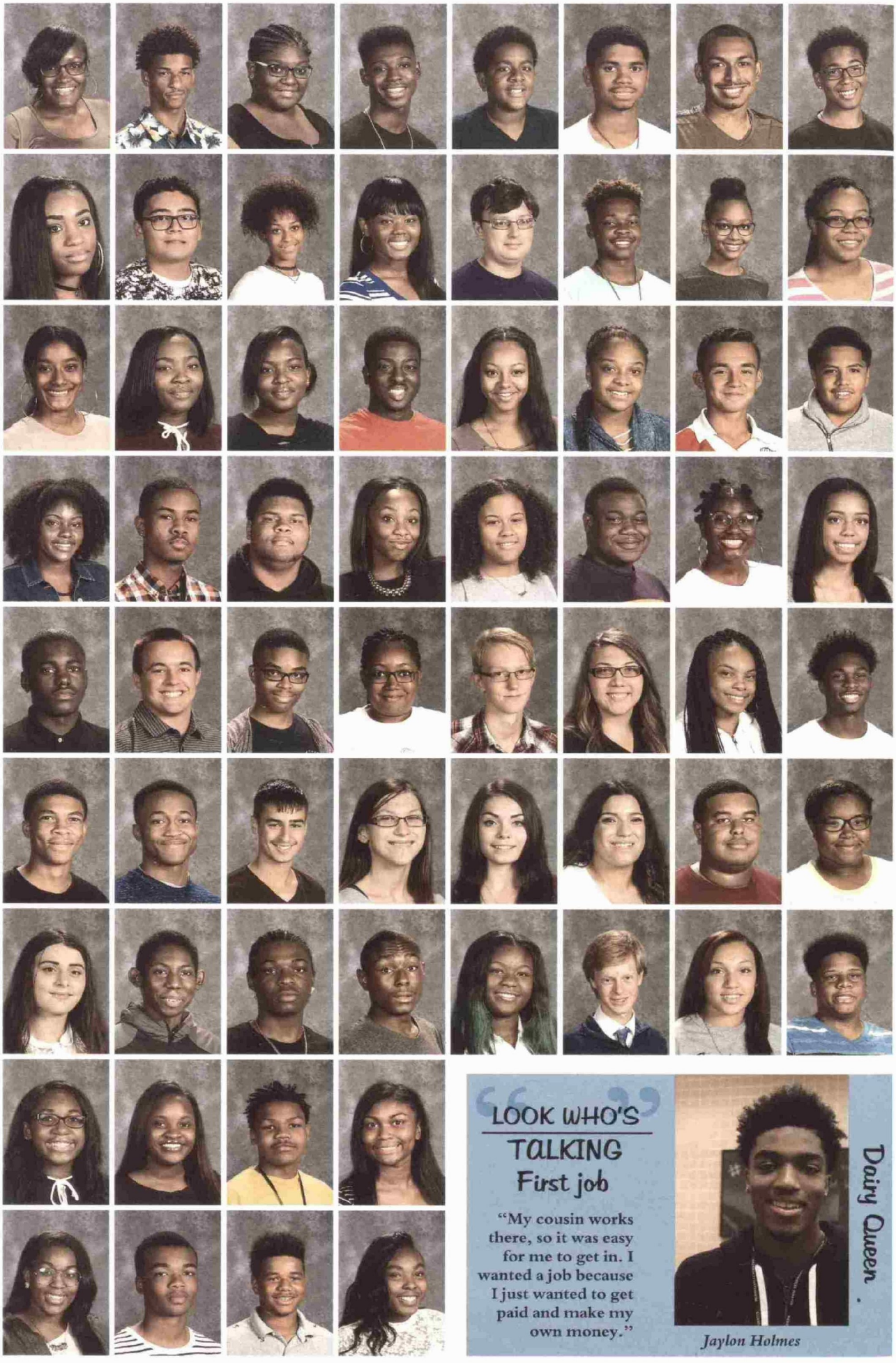
Israell Gordon
Maxwell Govert
John Grace
Asia Gray
James Green
Treasure Green
Tyanna Green
Robert Griffin

Xavier Griffin
Aaron Griggs
Nicholas Groleau
Victoria Gromek
Brianna Grygar
Carly Gubitz
Edmund Gunn
Monique Guydon

Jamie Guzman
David Hagan
Akeem Hall
Tori Hardin
Nautica Hardy
Hayden Harmon
Shelby Harmon
Marquise Harper

Jamia Harris
Khayla Harris
Marlon Harris
Tia Harrison

Danielle Hathaway
Antoine Hawkins
Marcus Hayes
Leandrea Heath



LOOK WHO'S TALKING

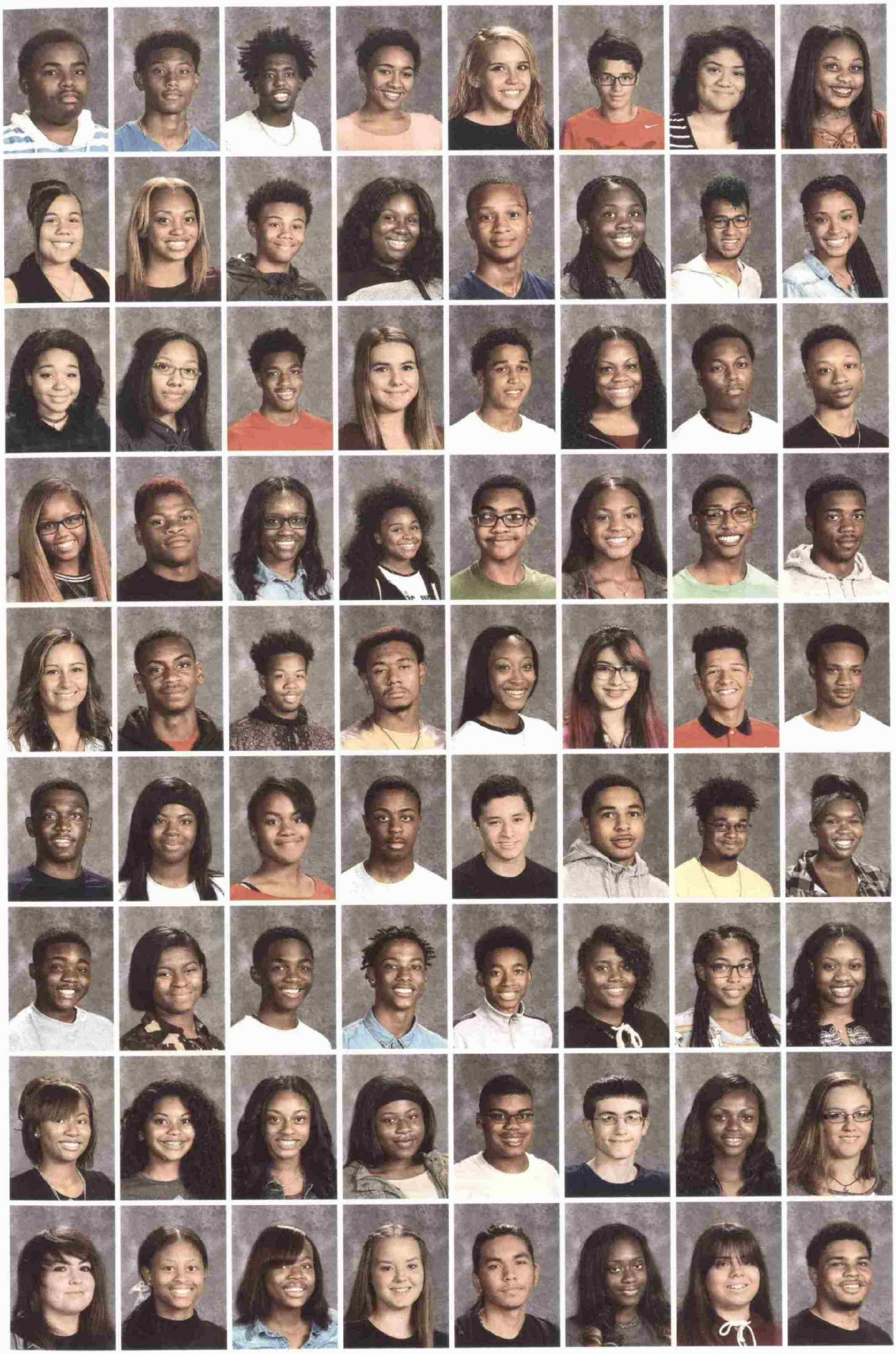
First job

"My cousin works there, so it was easy for me to get in. I wanted a job because I just wanted to get paid and make my own money."

Jaylon Holmes

Dairy Queen

Class of 2018



Joshua Henderson
Tyler Henderson
Austin Hendricks
Cardalina Hernandez
Leslie Hernandez
Marcos Hernandez Meija
Heather Herrera
Amara Hester

Elizabeth Hibbler
Timeah Hicks
Christian Hill
Taelor Hill
Caleb Hiller
Leayah Hines
Justin Hinton
Dominique Holden

Nicole Hollowell
Atiya Holmes
Jaylon Holmes
Tori Holst
Malik Hoover
Shyann Hopson
Princeston Horton
Christian Howard

TaiYauna Howard
Lawrence Hubbard
Kayla Hudson
Jasmine Huff
Timothy Hughes
Alyssa Hunt
Trenton Hutch
James Ireland

Cecilia Irizarry
Jaylin Jackson
Jerome Jackson
Turner Jamarr
Sha'lynn James
Jasmine Jaramillo
Tyler Jasso
Elijah Jefferson

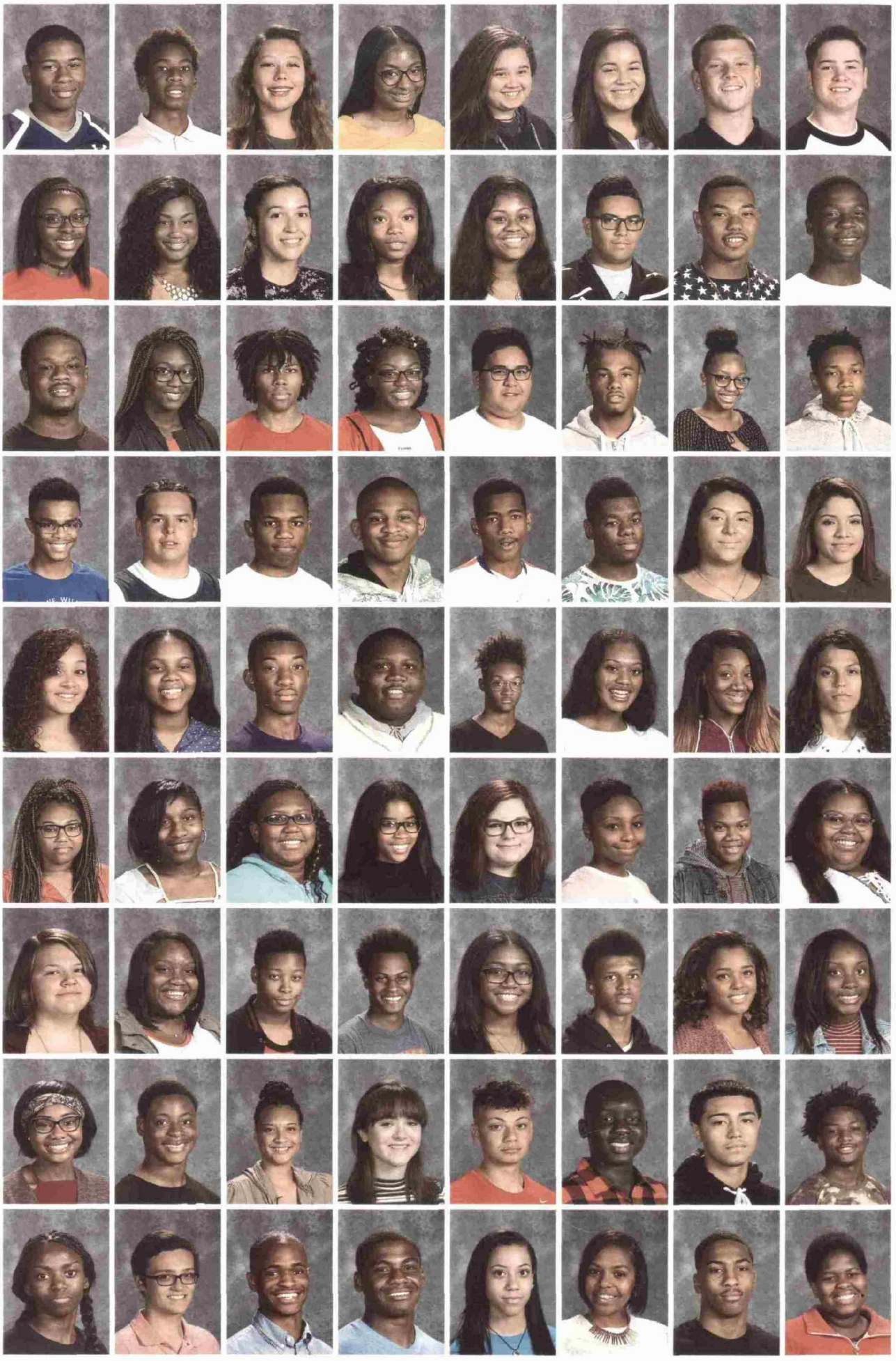
Bryson Jenkins
Cayla Jenkins
Elyssa Jenkins
Juwan Jenkins
Carlos Jimenez
Antoine Johnson
Isa Johnson
Jada Johnson

Jovan Johnson
Kaylah Johnson
Kendall Johnson
Marcina Johnson
Kentrell Jolley
Alexis Jones
Brianna Jones
Kaylin Jones

Kiarra Jones
Laquiana Jones
Lyric Jones
Tiarra Jones
Westley Jordan
Patrick Joseph
Denae Joshua
Kayla Josleyn

Sarah Juarez
Ke'leica Junigan
O'Sean Kelly-Williams
Sydney Kenner
Justin Kiel
Deawnna Kimble
Aaliyah King
Blake King

'99-'00 Babies



Dwayne King
Kevon King
Autumn Kiser
Angelica Knox
Kristen Kuykendoll
Viviana Lagunas
Cameron Lamb
Brad Lawrence II

Danielle LeGrand
Shekinah Lenoir
Emily Lesich
Brittanie Lewis
Leah Lewis
Christian Licea
KeShawn Lilly
Tyjonn Lockett

Eric Lomax
Najla Louis
Tajhere Lowery
Alexis Lumpkin
Gabriel Macapagal
Damaryon Mack
Tanecia Maclin
Javon Madkins

Melvin Magee
Eloy Maldonado
Raheim Manuel
D'lyn Markeonti
Jeremiah Marshall
Camdoen Martin
Jeanette Martinez
Samantha Martinez

Jasmine Martinez-Santa
Ramiyah Mayo
Mik'el Mays
Michael McCeader
George McClendon
Tanea McEwen
Juanita McGee
Ryan McGee

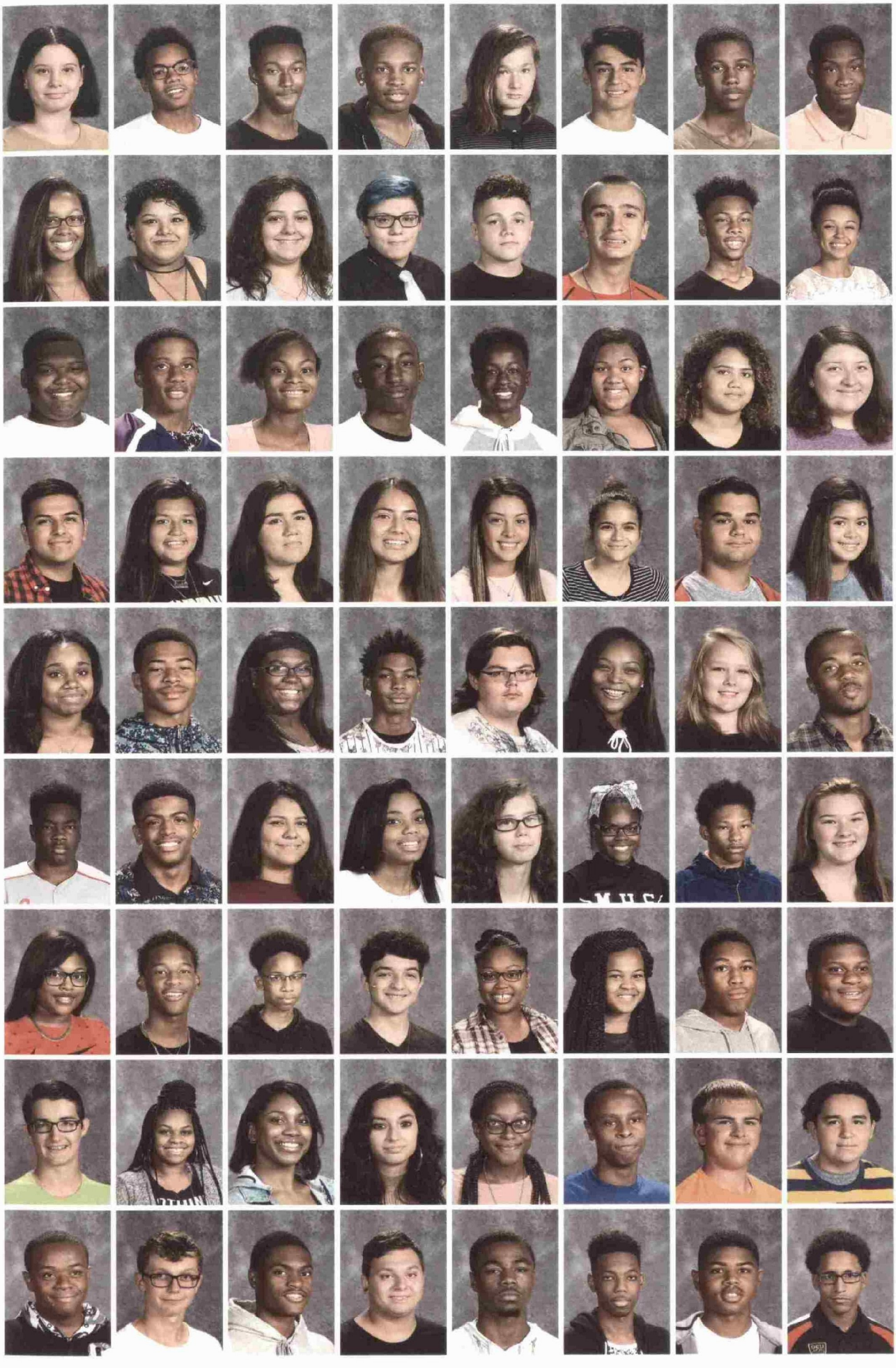
Teresa McGee
Asia McLean
Ti'mair McMullan
Brendea McNeal
Leia Mesarch
Linyhia Meux-Miller
Zion Middlebrooks
Damione Miller

Kayla Miller
Tanazah Miller
Dijon Minnis
Tylum Moncreace
Kierra Moore
Christian Moorer
Crystn Morgan
Diamond Morris

Carrington Morse
Zaire Moss
Vasotti Mottley
Molly Murphy
Alexander Navarro
Ibra Ndiour
Demetrio Nevarez
Joshua Noble

Mariah Nobles
Kyle Noonan
Kobe Norfleet
Brett Norton
Michail Nunn
Sachae Nunn
Syrrus Nunn
Joy Obong

Class of 2018



Samantha Osborne
Keelan Outlar
De'leon Palmer
Darrion Parker
Nickolas Parker
Jorge Parra
Malik Passmore
Dimitruis Payne

Bri'Yanna Pearson
Cecilia Pedroza
Angela Pejovski
Samantha Perea
Isaiah Perez
George Perosky
Damaris Perry
Tatiana Peters

Paul Pitts
Dontrell Pope
Ashley Porter
Khalil Porter
Timothy Porter
Tori Pruitt
Lauren Pryle
Stephanie Puente

Edward Quintero
Cynthia Quiroz
Alicia Ramirez
Marisol Ramirez
Alexis Ramos
Damari Ramos
Eric Ramos
Marissa Ramos

La'Deja Rand
Denzel Randolph
Tanis Randolph
Kwante' Ray
Brandynn Reed
Kailynn Reed
Krystal Reed
Simeon Reed

Kalen Reese
Elijah Reid
Raquel Reyes
Nihayla Rias
Cassandra Rich
Azaria Richardson
Derrick Ricketts-Rogers
Adrianna Rietman

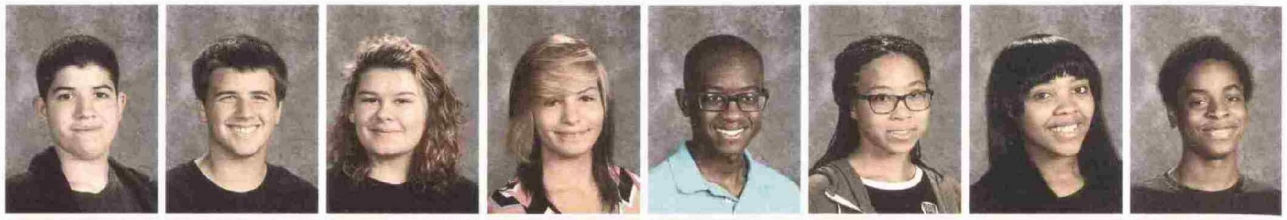
Elaycia Riley
Amari Ritchie
Enrique Rivera
Christopher Riveron
Janel Roberts
Ashlyn Robinson
Delaun Robinson
Derrionne Robinson

Keith Rochefort
Zaria Rock
Nya Rodgers
Allison Rodriguez
Kristyn Rogers
Derrick Roland
Gregory Romeo
Leonardo Romero

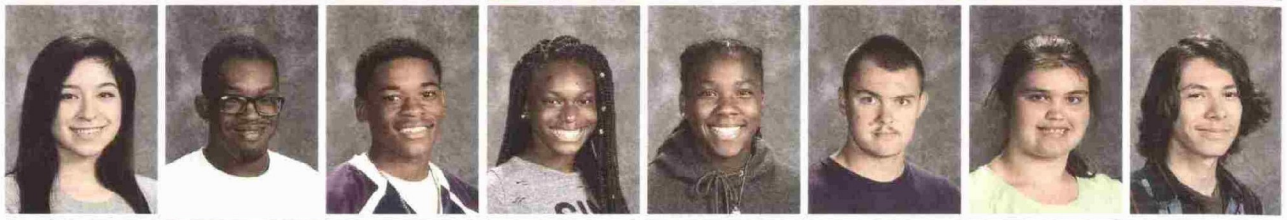
Elliott Ruffin
Tyler Russell
Chaz Sales
Andrew Salka
Collin Sanders
Dana Sanders
Robert Sanders
Jacob Sandridge

'99-'00 Babies

Christopher Saporito
John Sawyer
Gabrielle Schindler
Montana Schulatz
Brandon Scott
Jaime Scott
Le'Anna Scott
Kyle Semmes

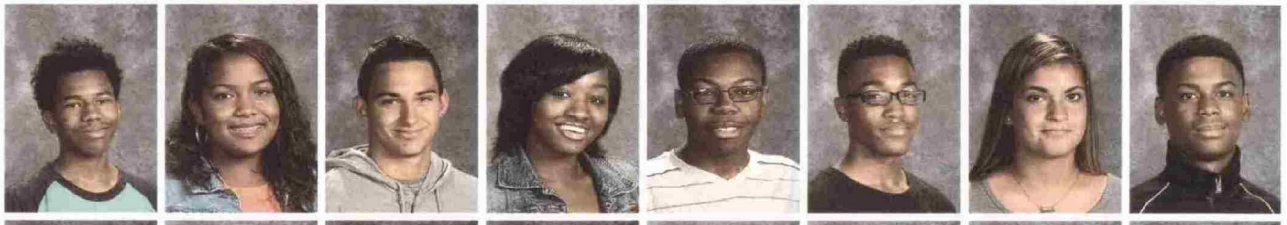


Erica Serros
Justin Setzer
Michael Shell
Aeriel Shelton
Antineal Shelton
Preston Shirley
Savannah Shirley
Joseph Silvas



Carlos Sims
Erin Sims
Jonathan Sims
Amariah Smith
Armani Smith
Cayla Smith
Christian Smith
D'Mia Smith

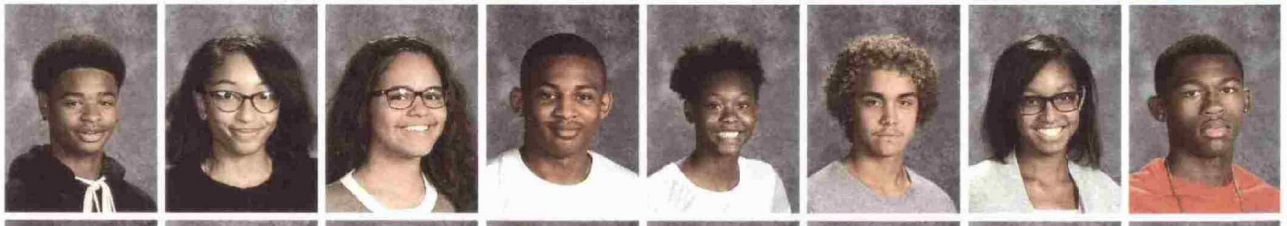
Jordan Smith
Kamri Smith
Ryan Smith
Sierre Smith
William Smith
Xavier Smith
Reannah Soto
Raymond Span



Matthew Spicknall
Daniel Sprouse
Kyra Stevens
Joseph Stevenson
Aaliyah Stewart
Kaitlin Stingley
Tamia Stingley
Sincere Stitt

Brandon Streck
Angelo Strong
Braedan Stubbs
Diamond Taher
Chadryne Tamo
Jansen Tan
Kendall Tanniehill
Kennedy Tanniehill

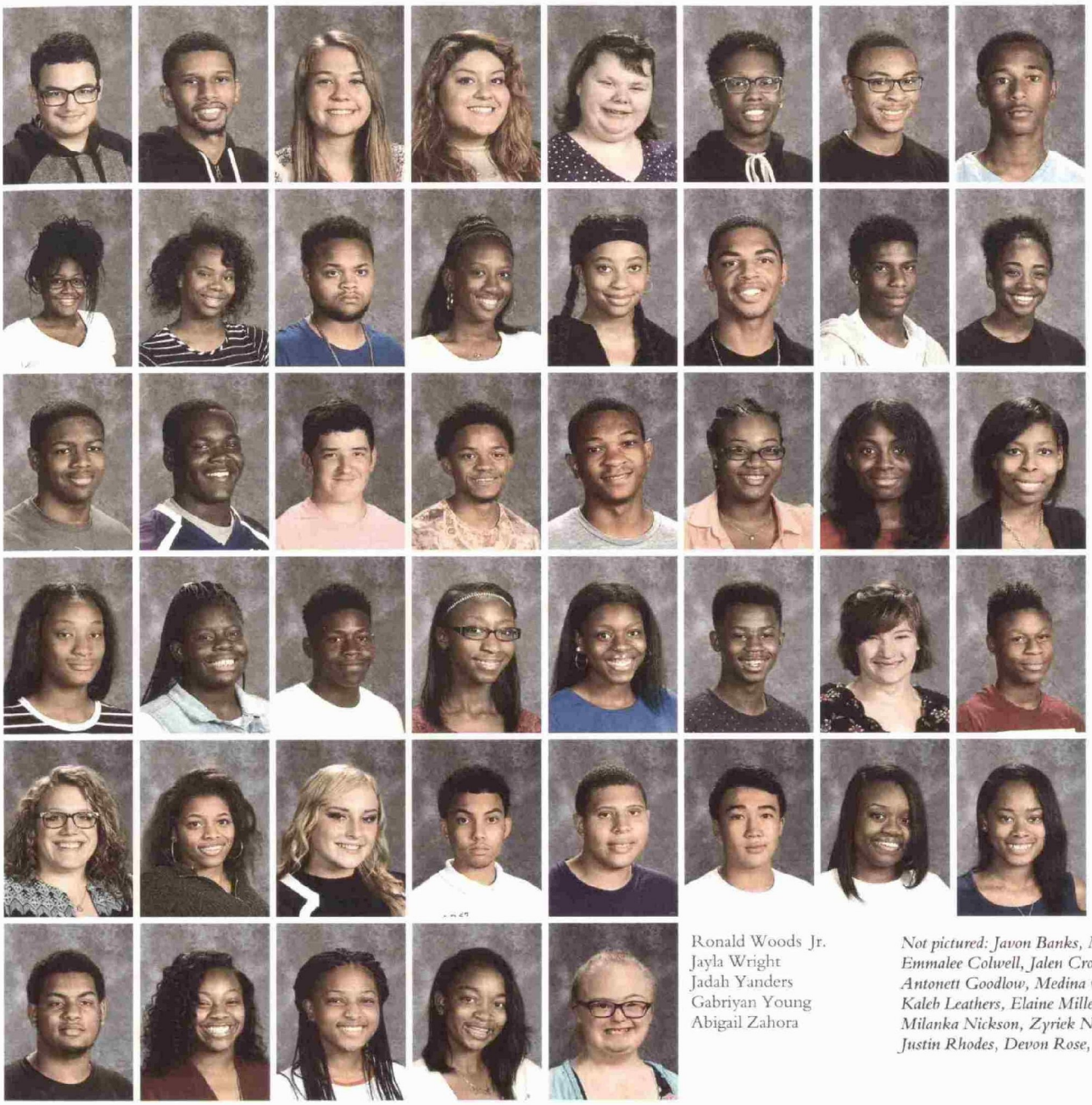
Brandon Taylor
Ivelisse Taylor
Olivia Taylor
Markeonti Teamer
Ce'aria Thomas
Maurice Thomas
Meagan Thomas
Nolen Thomas



Samantha Thomas
Cameron Thompson
Sabrina Thormann
Sarah Thormann
Heaven Tomlinson
Karis Toney
Jacob Toodle
Jubilee Topps

Angelo Torres
Tamara Trimble
Kayla Trotter
Ah'zsur Ursery
Prysma Valdivia
Brianna Vanderbilt
Tyler VanVleet
Aaron Vara

Class of 2018



David Vazquez
Dawon Velez
Katelyn Vinson
Xitlalic Viramontes Renteria
Selena Wagonblast
Brian Walker
Nicholas Walker
Willie Wallace

Kennedy Waller
Erica Walton
Brian Ward
Akilah Ware
Diamond Ware
Keeshawn Weaver
TraVon Weaver
Joycelynn West

Darieus Westbrook
Dennis Weston
Aaron Whitaker
Aahron Whitehead
JaKobe Wilbon
Alyssia Williams
Aneia Williams
Briana Williams

Brittney Williams
Mercedes Williams
Robert Williams
Shaina Williams
Tyonna Williams
Preston Williamson
Samantha Williamson
Sai-Yuk Willis

Courtney Wilson
Alana Winters
Meagan Wise
Roy Wood
Cameron Woods
Israel Woods
Keyerra Woods
Shianne Woods

Ronald Woods Jr.
Jayla Wright
Jadah Yanders
Gabriyan Young
Abigail Zahora

Not pictured: Javon Banks, Michelle Blunt, Justin Brown, Emmalee Colwell, Jalen Crowder, Taylashe Ferguson, Antonett Goodlow, Medina Griffin, Melanie Landers, Kaleb Leathers, Elaine Miller, Daniel Navarez, Milanka Nickson, Zyriek Nickson, Monica Prince, Justin Rhodes, Devon Rose, Faye Valadez, Ariyonna Young.

"LOOK WHO'S TALKING"

First job

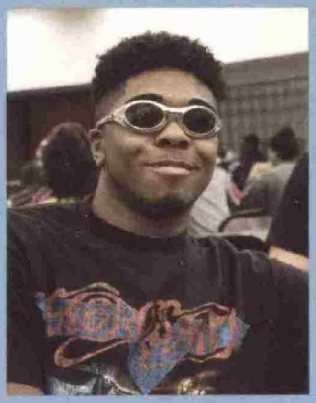
"I got in through a family connection. It felt good knowing I was earning my own money."

Big Daddy's BBQ

Allure Calhoun

"At the time I applied, they were having open interviews and I just felt like I had to snatch up my opportunity."

McDonald's



Ah'zsur Ursery

"The reason I applied to McDonald's is because I heard that it was an easy job and I just wanted to earn some extra money."

McDonald's

Tori Pruitt

Faculty and Staff

Salvador Aguilar
Gerald Akujobi
Robert Albers
Janet Anderson
Joseph Atria
Cheryl Austin
Sandra Babilonia
Adam Baez

Suzana Baker
Amber Baron
Jenaffer Beasley
Amy Beckham
Carrie Bedwell
Robert Bedwell
Adeline Bemish
Brad Best

Kathy Bihlman
Jeremy Bilka
Lora Bish
Wade Boise
James Bostic
Kristina Brown
Connor Buxton
Melissa Byerly

Kristin Campbell
Sarwat Choudhry
Byron Clark
Patrick Coffey
Mary Kate Conway
Tyra Cooper
Hannah Coronado
Saundra Crayton

Damita Crittenden
Bruce Curme
Anthony Curry
Dawn Czuba
Monica DaCosta Gomez
Carol Dahlen
Benjamin Daniel
Sarah Daniels

Mark Danielson
Danielle Dates
Melinda Davis
Dana Deloian
Grace Amber Dewald
Pamela Dortch
Nancy Draper
Josefina Eliscupides

Michael Engle
Meghen Erickson
Jeffrey Fairbairn
Jackeline Fernandez
Robert Fernando
Erin Flores
Brigitte Floyd
Adam Fricke

Kevin Furman
Dragica Gajic
Paul Gallivan
Robert Gardner
Matt Garner
Zella Garron
Gregory Geimer
Dane Glass

Faculty and Staff

Olubayo Gordon
Amy Govert
Jaclyn Grigutis
Juan Guajardo
Linda Hall
Teresa Harness
Josh Harvoth
Susan Hayes

Kira Healy
Robert Heckler
Victoria Henderson
Juanita Hernandez
Dave Hinkel
Anthony Hofer
Yolanda Hogan-Morris
Katelyn Holsclaw

Cari Hooper
Ben Horan
David Hossler
Acquarhetter Howard
Joseph Hussey
Elisha Israel
Perla Jackson
Timothy James

Darcie Johnston
James Johnston
Betty Jordan
Bojan Jovanovic
Nicki Jusko
Robert Kaplar
Rose Karson
Sean Kavois

Tom Kelly
Jason Kendera
Sarah Kennedy-Ketchem
Elizabeth Kenyon
Lena Kiser
Debra Klippel
Misty Knestrict
Angie Knezevic

Michael Knocke
Nada Kolar
Kelly Kratz
Michael Krutz
Linda Kulina
Lauren LaPierre
Alicia Lasky
Candace Lillie

Catherine Lobody
Jesse Long
Aaron Longacre
LaTonya Lopez
Luis Lopez
Sheryl Loving
Tricia Lukawski
Thomas Mackey

Kristin Maglish
David Maldonado
Raquel Maldonado
Veronica Maldonado
Chyamiah Martin
Rachelle Massaeavoilo
Deborah McBride
Nicole McDonald

Faculty and Staff

Patricia McWay
Tanya Mead
Sean Meagher
Lee Meyer
Lisa Miller
Nisa Milosavljevich
Vesna Mitic
Alan Mizimakoski

Biljana Mizlmakoska
Noura Mohnmed
Joseph Monahan
Debra Monix
Helen Moravskij
Yolanda Morris
Dan Moslander
Gail Nicolini

Angela Nieves
Bonnie Niksch
Joe Nora
Mona Nunnery
Allen O'Connor
Beth O'Halek
Martha Ortiz
Stacy Parkhurst

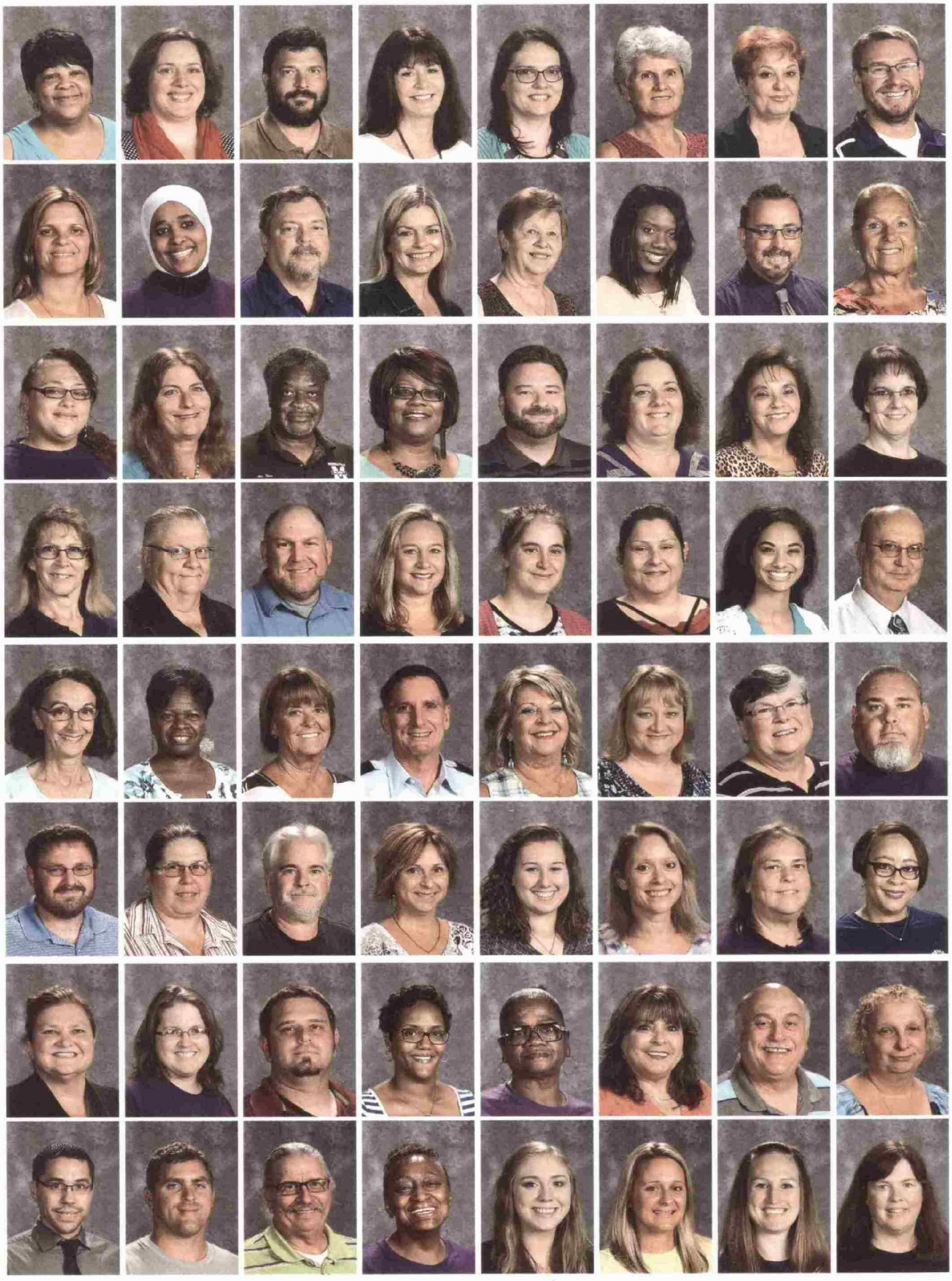
Penny Parmley
Bill Parnell
Brian Past
Deanne Pierce
Heather Pocock
Celia Pollard
Neerja Prasad
Steven Prather

Teresa Procter
Rose Pulliam
Janis Qualizza
Maj. Guy Ramey
Shelley Ray
Melinda Reinhart
Judy Riba
Christopher Richardson

Nick Roberts
Pamela Roberts
Mark Robinson
Patricia Robison
Rachel Rockey
Diane Rosenthal
Susan Rosenwinkel
Valetta Ross

Sharon Row
Kathy Russell
Joshua Sabinas
Chicha Sanders
Brenda Sanders
Sherri Scartozzi
Gary Schlinger
Sandra Scholtens

Daniel Schoon
Bradley Seiss
Charles Seligman
Barbara Shaw
Shelby Short
Caroline Sides
Veronica Siwy
Alison Skertic



Faculty and Staff

Kenny Smith
Mitchell Smith
Pat Smith
Patricia Ann Smith
Jason Sonnenberg
Rachel Sonnenberg
Irene Spiro
Doug Splitgerber

Samantha St. Aubin
Dean Stadt
Debra Staffeld
Sara Stallings
James Stamper
Zoran Stefanovic
Tim Stewart
Michelle Sulich

Tom Sweet
Brenda Talley
Tracey Taylor
David Teeter
Koree Thomas
Paul Trembacki
Patti Tubbs
Wanda Underhill

Paul Unterfranz
Cheryl Ursery
Melissa Valsi
Beverly Van Drunen
Joy Varela
Erica Velazquez
Patricia Ventura
Mia Vinson

Maryann Wampler
Elzina Washington
Ronda Waters
Keri Wiersbe
Sally Williamson
Debra Willison
Don Willison
Michelle Wilson

Paul Wirtz
SSgt. Dan Wrasman
Dorothy Yetsko
Esmeralda Zamora
Brian Zdych
Joan Zerbe

"LOOK WHO'S TALKING"

I wish that students knew

"Everything you do today truly does affect your tomorrow."

Mrs. Deanne Pierce

Mrs. Sheryl Loving

"Teachers really care about how they are doing personally as well as in school."

"There's always an answer for every problem."

Mrs. Janet Anderson

Fast-forwarding

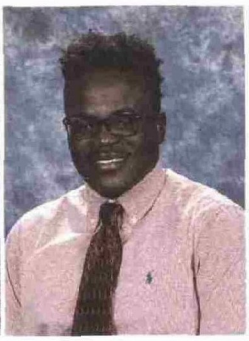
to the future

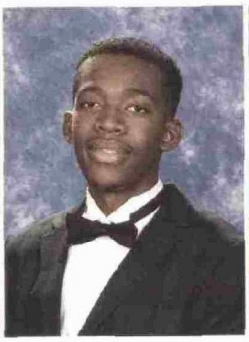
As he looks up at the crowd, Social Studies teacher and Assistant Basketball Coach Mr. Bojan Jovanovic gets ready to play the seniors in the first dodgeball tournament. "It was so fun hitting kids with the balls and seeing them get mad," Mr. Jovanovic said. Mr.Jovanovic said he would love to play again because it was great.

Last of the '90s Babies

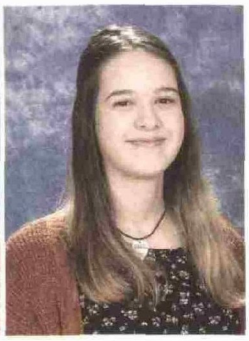
Illaha Abdul

Cheyenne Adams

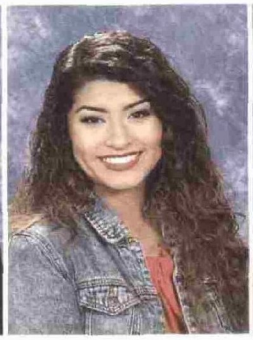

Jalen Adams

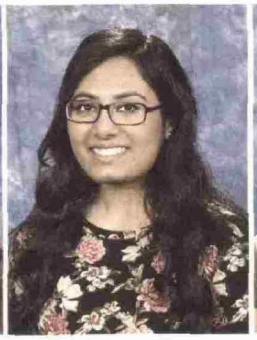

Gerald Akujobi

Ebonie Ali


Kaitlyn Ammerman

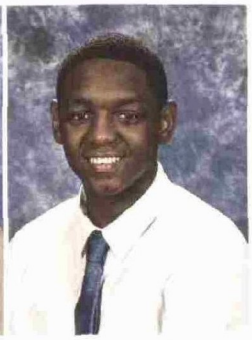
Ralissa Andrews


Angela Arellano


Sairah Asghar

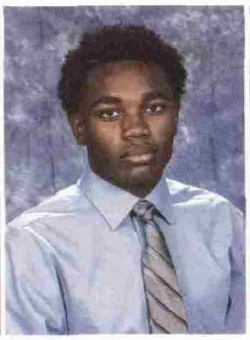
Kathleen Aton

Breonna Baggett

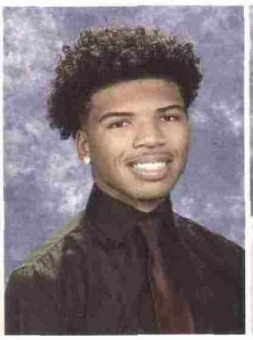

Michael Baker

Norina Balderas

Ashli Ballard

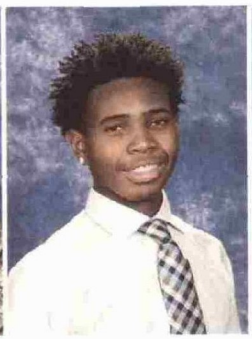

Anthony Banks

Diana Banks

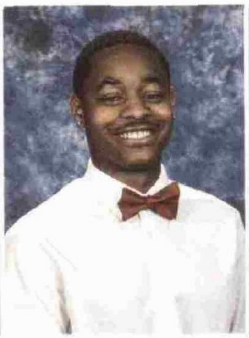

Traevon Banks

Brittany Bell

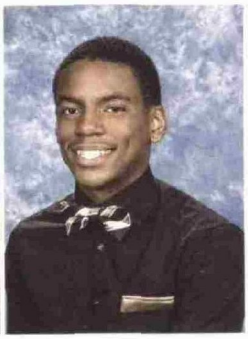
Shyann Bell

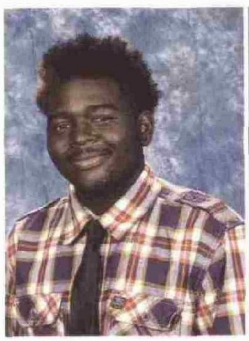

Quionte' Biffle

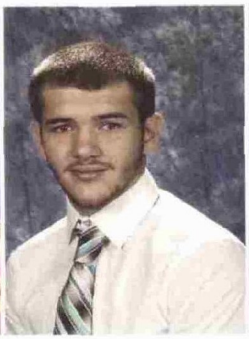
Madison Blackwell

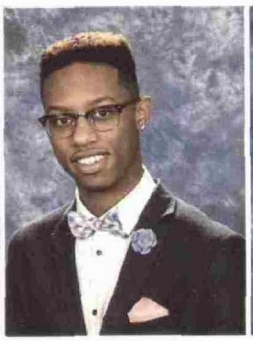

Jerry Boyd

Renee Bozeman


Malik Bradley


Ricky Braggs


Branden Bramson


Ronald Brewer

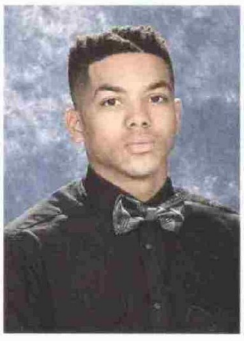
Waukesha Briner

Morgan Brinker

Samuel Brnicky

Class of 2017

Samantha Brooks


Kaylin Brookshire

Brianna Brown

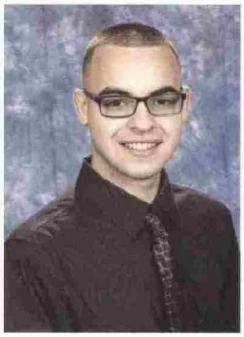
Timoya Bryant

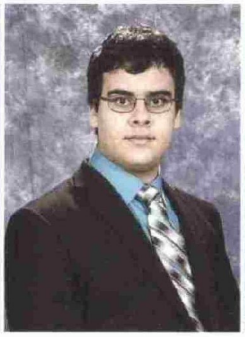
Torian Bryant

Natasha Burl

Vanessa Bush

Shakayla Bynum-Crenshaw

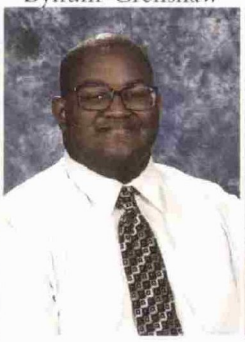

Isaac Caballero


Jacob Cabrera

Kamari Cage

Kaylyn Campbell

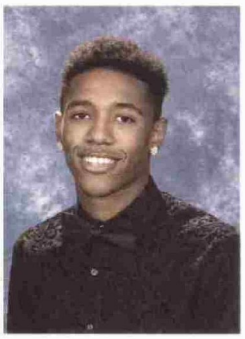
Maria Carbajal


Tyler Carlisle

Autumn Carrero

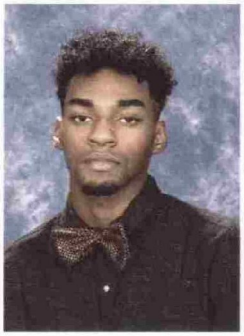
Arianna Carrillo

Julianna Carrillo

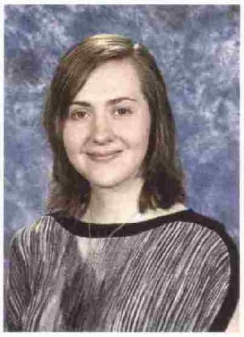

Alex Carter

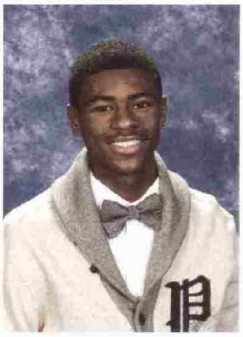
Precious Carter

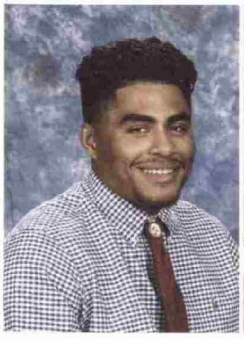
Alexandra Chambliss


Jordan Clark

Christian Clemons

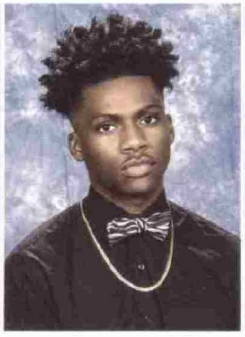

Isobel Collins

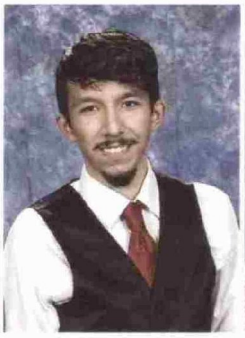

Ivan Cook

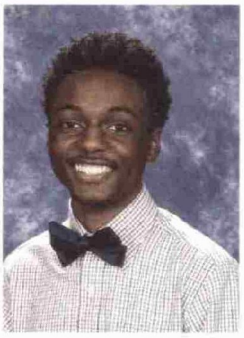

Aaron Corralez

Tatyanah Cross

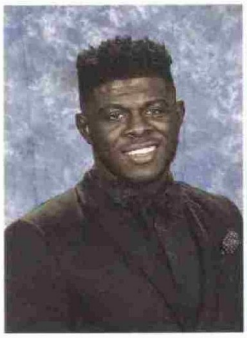
Elizabeth Croy

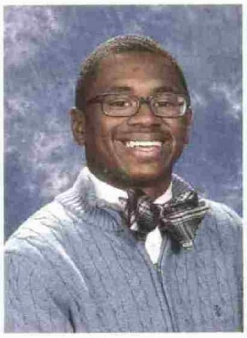

Calvin Cruse

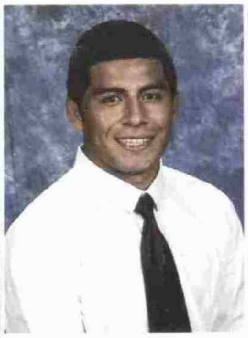

Antonio Cruz


Dakari Cundiff

Last of the '90s Babies


Isaiah Davis


Kyle Davis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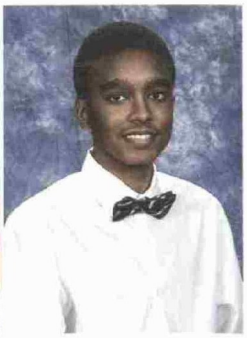
Emily DeCausemaker

Karla DeLeon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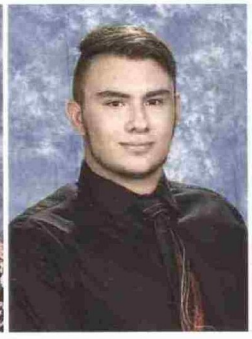
Moises Diaz

Clara Dobbin

Halina Duke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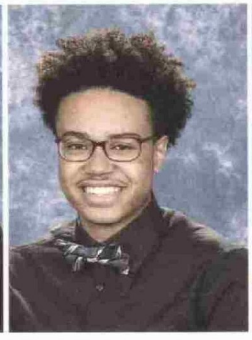
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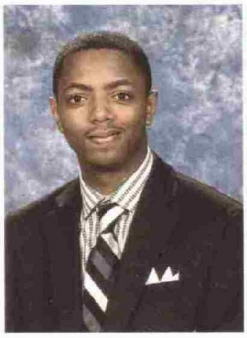
Lindsey Edwards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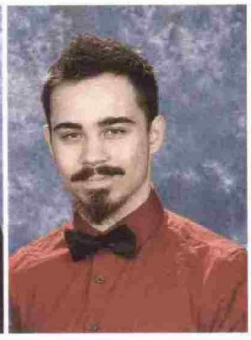
Ceana Escalante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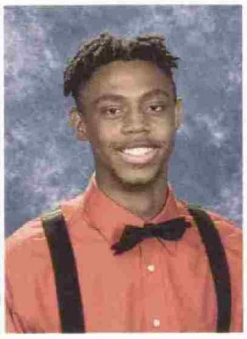
Aurora Fassoth

Treshoun Ferguson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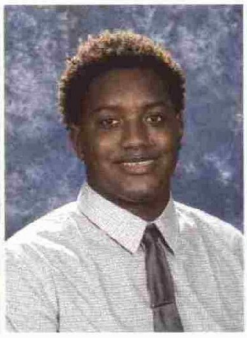
Danielle Figueroa

ShaiVon Ford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Alicia Frazier

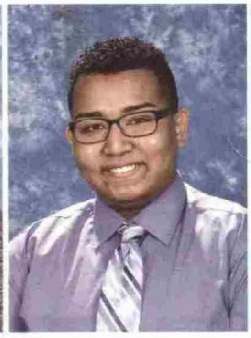
Jade Frison

Ivori Fulton

Mikal Funches

Jei'Avonni Gage

Alina Garcia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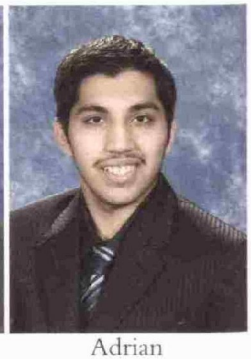
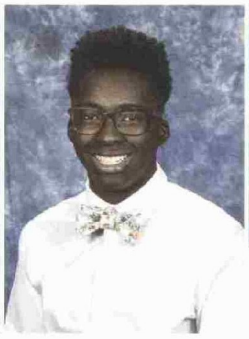
Jacqueline Garza


Adrian Gibson-Moreno

Class of 2017

Cheyenne Gidley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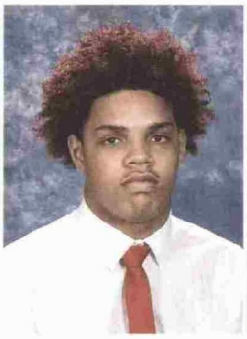
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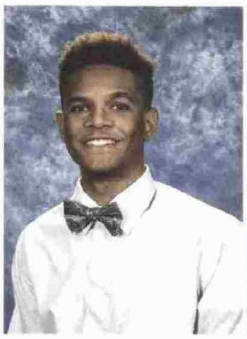
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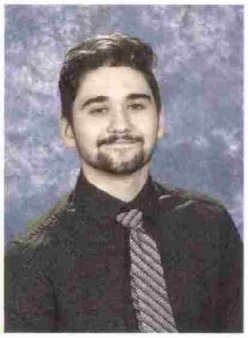
Cynthia Gomez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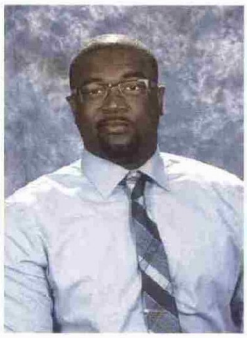
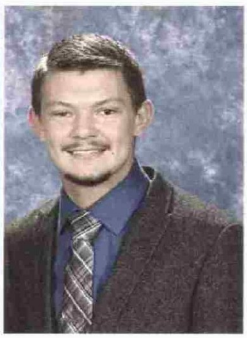
Ana Gonzalez Ruiz


Jay'lon Gordon

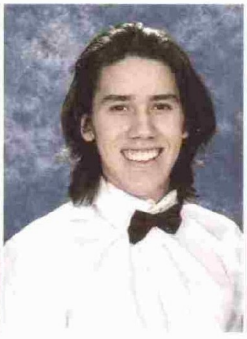
Osan Gordon


Isaac Graham

Princess Graham

David Green

Nicole Groleau


Pedro Guarda

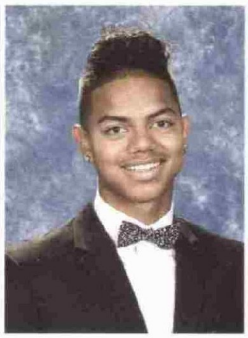
Ariel Harbin

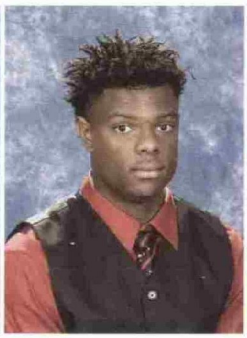
Leslie Hardin

Tasha Hardin

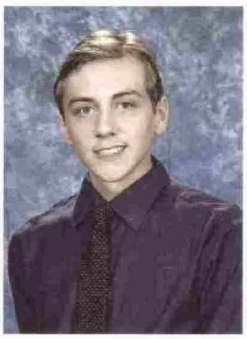
JayLynn Hardrick

Clarissa Haro


Joseph Harris

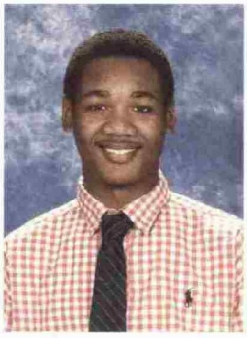

Ramon Harris

Taejah Harris


Nicholas Harsma

Dontrease Hazelett

Kendall Heffiner-Woodson


Devin Hence

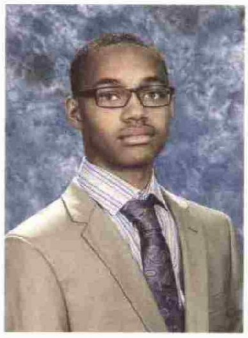
Cezar Hernandez

Esteban Hernandez

Cherise' Higgins

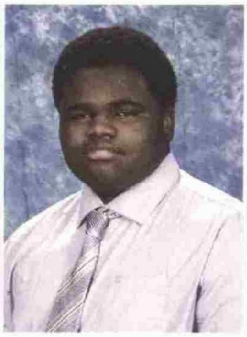
Destiny Hill

Last of the '90s Babies


Henry Hill

Cynthia Hindmon

Dale Holley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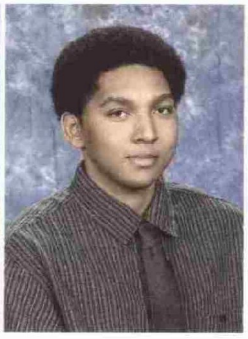
Ke'Ayzia Holliday

Leroy Holliday

Makayla Hollingsworth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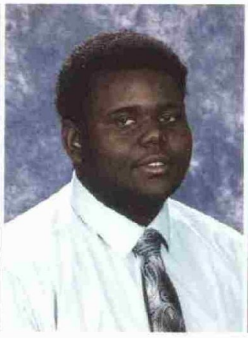
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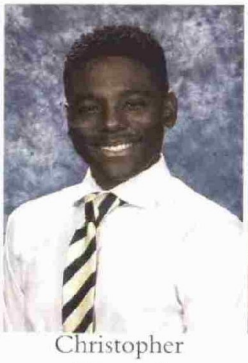
Aunteria Howard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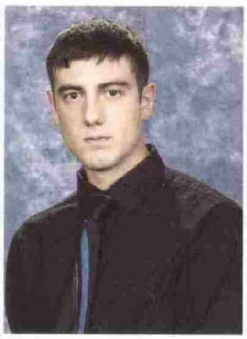
Jazmine Huffmon

Ashlei Hunt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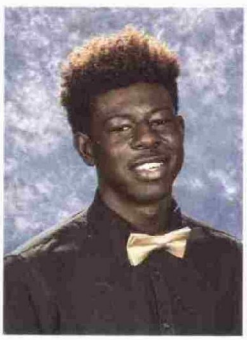
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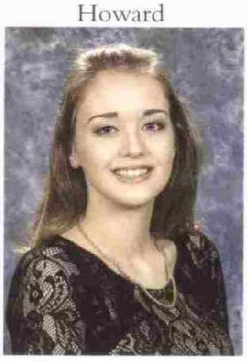
Jonah Jackson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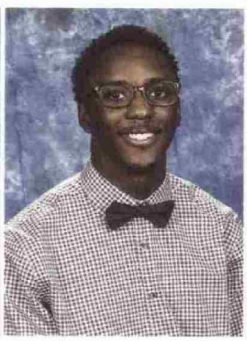
Charysse James

Keanu Jenkins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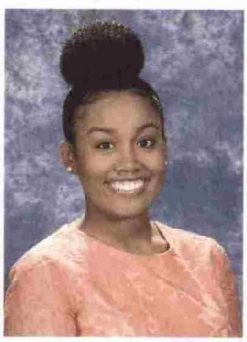
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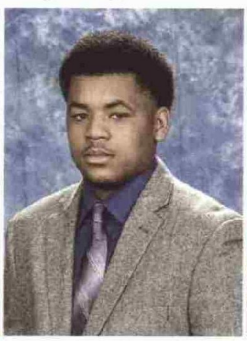
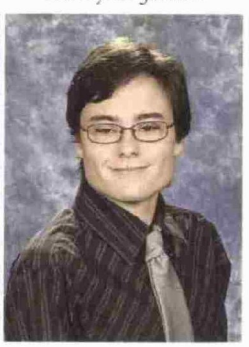

Dequan Johnson

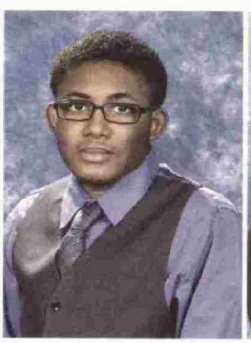
JaeLenn Johnson


Michael Johnson

TasMarie Johnson

Willow Johnson

Kayla Johnson-Owens


Jayden Jolley

Adoria Jolly

De'Jah Jones

Class of 2017

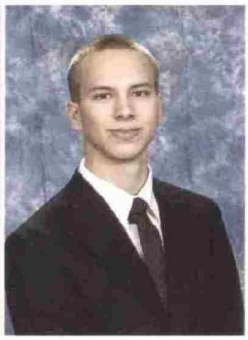
Gelena Jones

Ivory Jones

Tyler Jones

Kathryn Jurczyk

Samantha Kale-Foster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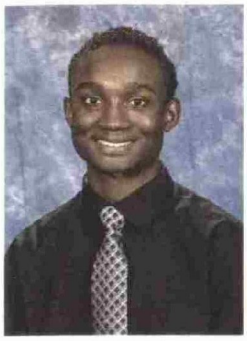
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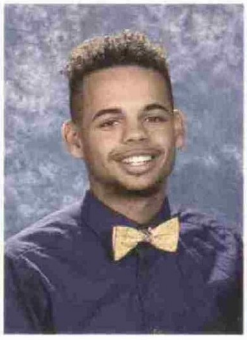
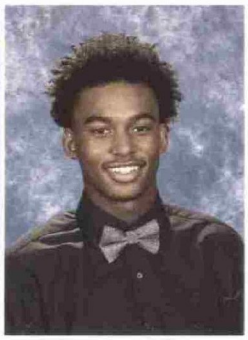
Yolanda Kelly


Darius Kendall

Nyjah King

Terra King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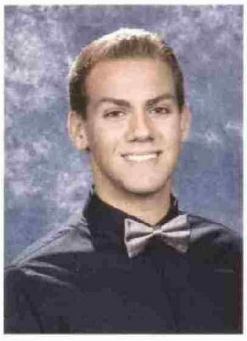
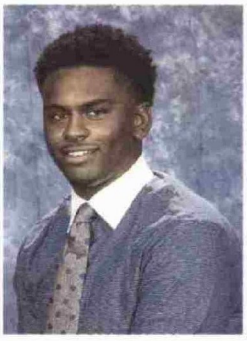

Kyle Klingaman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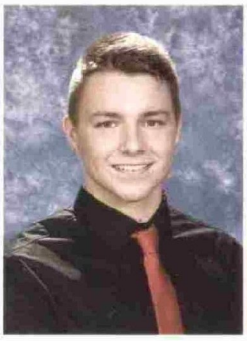
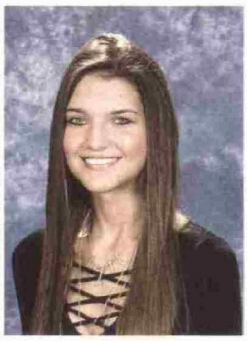

Joseph Krutz

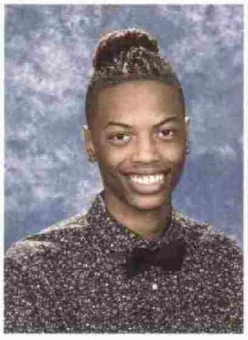
Simone Lara

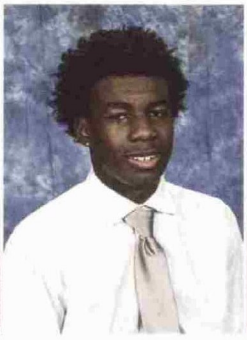
Carnisa Laster

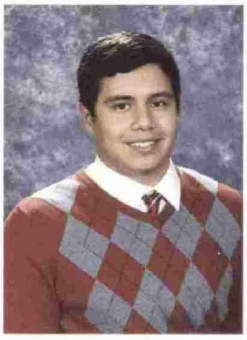

Fabienne Laurisch

Carissa Lewis

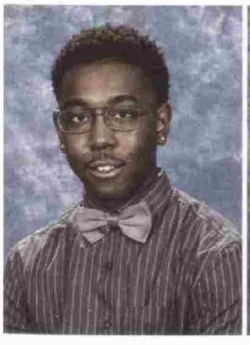
Najah Lewis-Singleton


Jermaine Lipscomb


Tevon Lockett


Alexis Lopez

Cassandra Lopez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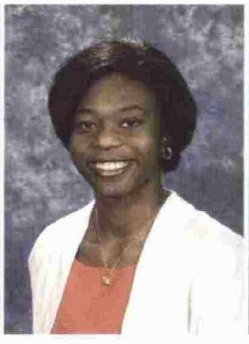
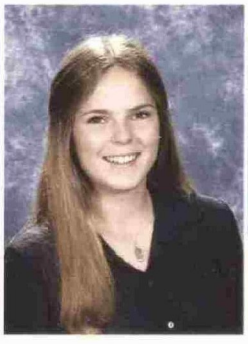

Christian Luckett

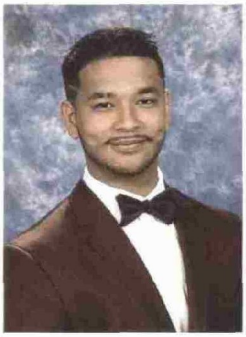
Paulina Lupercio


Naomi Lux

Emily Maayteh

Alicia Maclin

Last of the '90s Babies


Xavier Madera

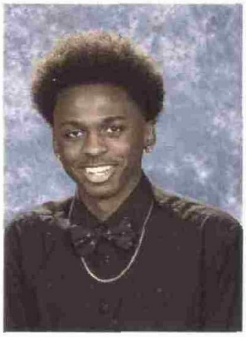
Jazmyne Magee

Taylor Maj

Re'nee Mallett

Matthew Mallon

Kennedy Marshall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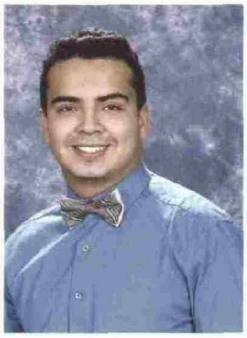
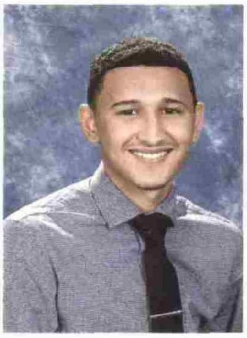

Alan Martinez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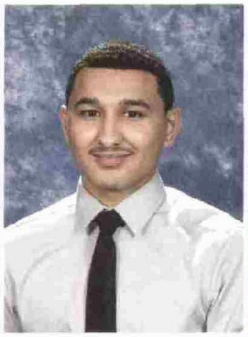
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Ashley Matthews

Asia Maynor

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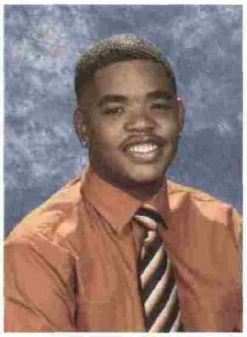
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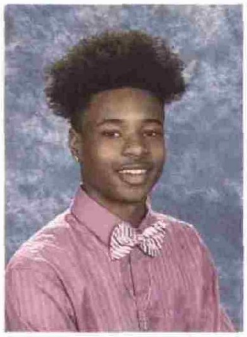
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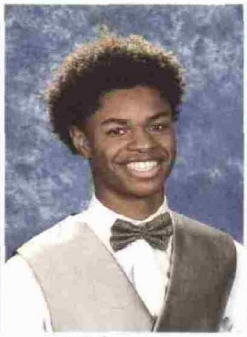
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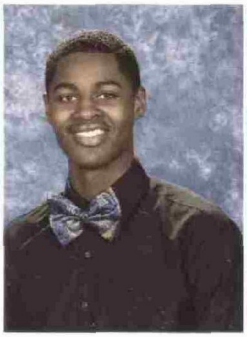
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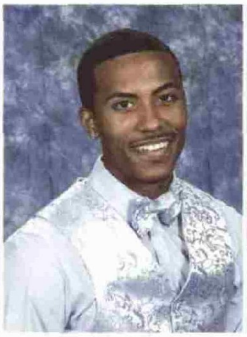
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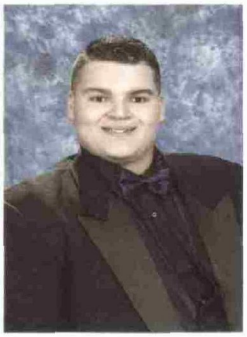
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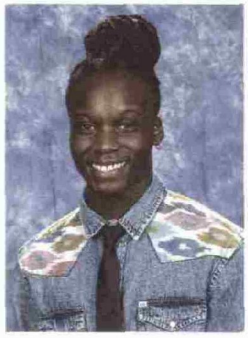
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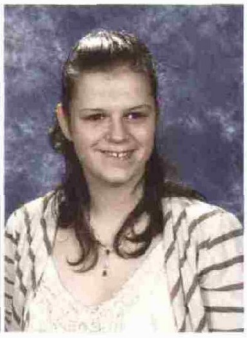
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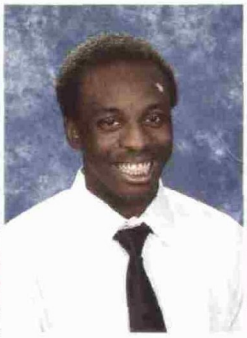
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Raymond Miller

Alisha Mongold

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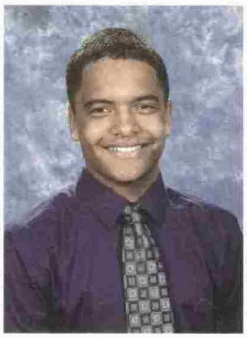
Jaia Montgomery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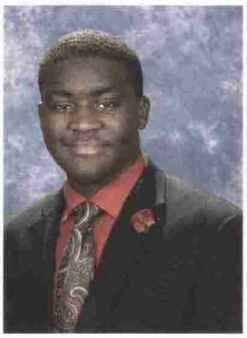
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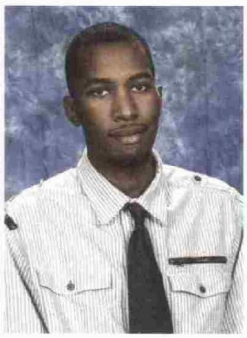
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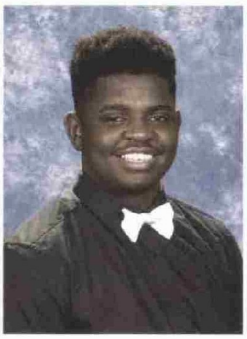
Casandra Mosley

Hannah Moss

Zarria Moss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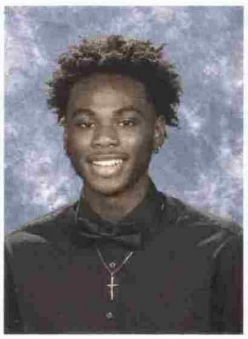
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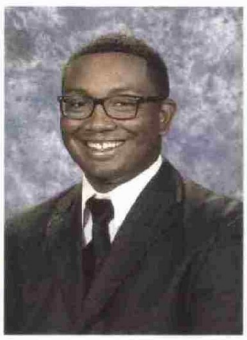
Aleecia Niezgoda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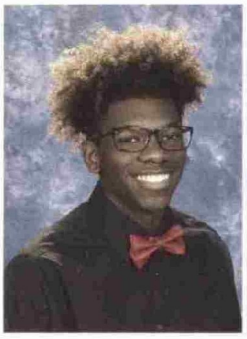
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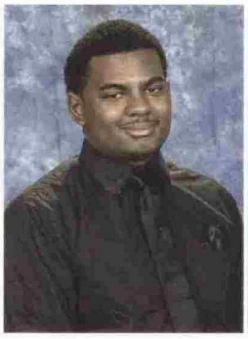
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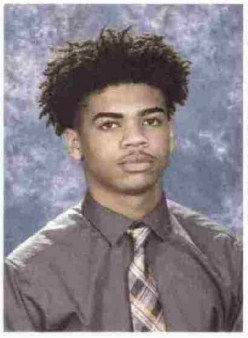
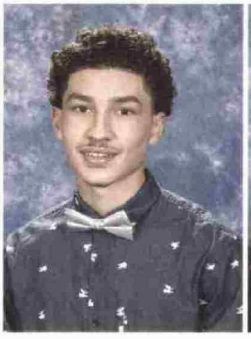

Dennis Patterson

Infinity Patton

Natalie Paz

Makayla Pearson

Grettel Peralta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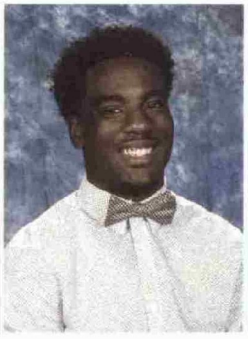
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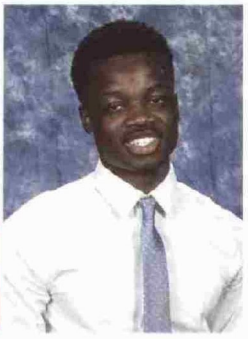
D'Vonne Porter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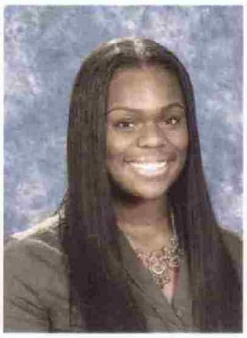
Samantha Proper

Jahnari Pruitt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Jazzybell Quinones

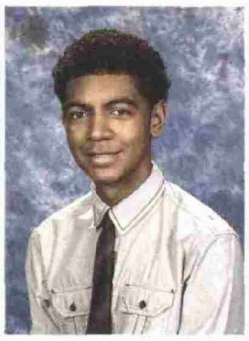
Sharee Ramsey

Aryal Randall

Last of the '90s Babies

Leah Ray

Iziah Readus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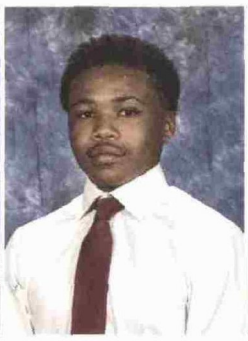
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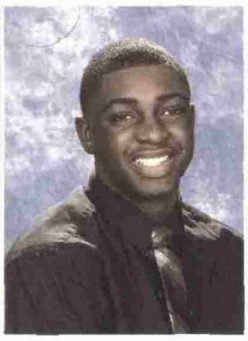
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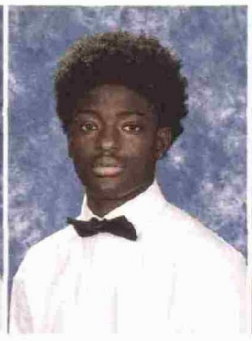
Maria Rivera

Aliyah Robinson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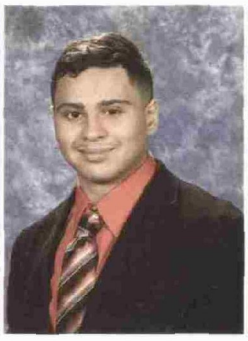
Karina Robledo

Rachel Rodriguez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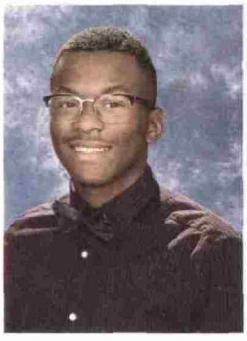
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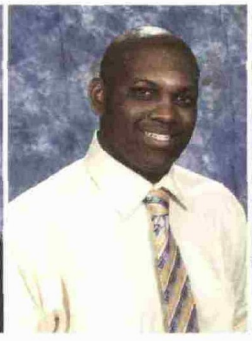
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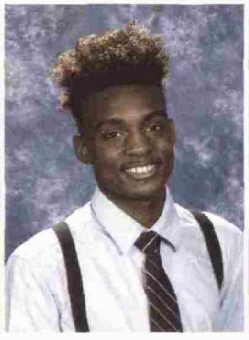
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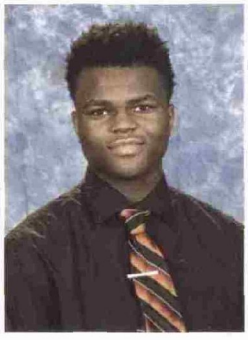
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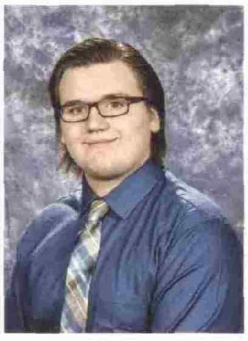
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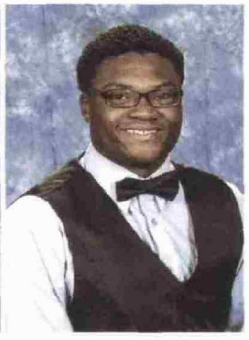
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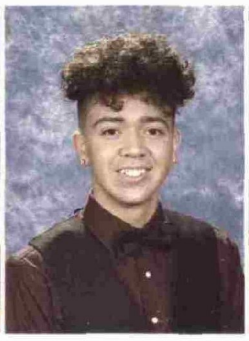
Kayla Sandridge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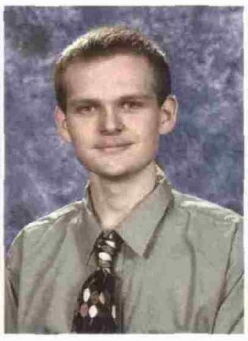
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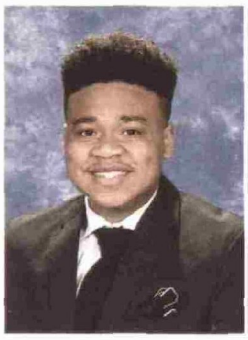
I'Yanna Scott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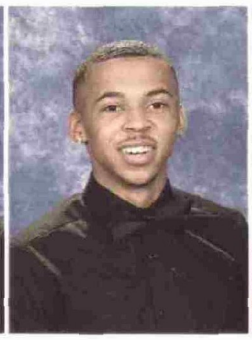
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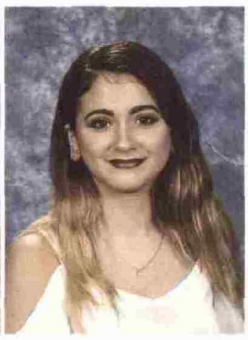
Nitsa Shomo

Alexus Simpson

Kaja Sims

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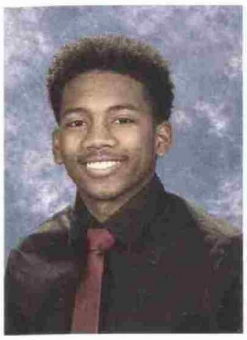
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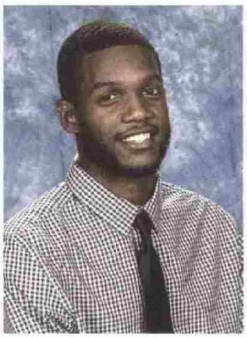
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Justin Smith

Katelyn Smith

Mi-Chae' Smith

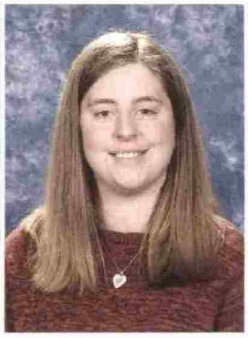
Rishara Smith

Scarlett Smith

Sydney Smith

Amari Smith McPhee

Lauren Stanley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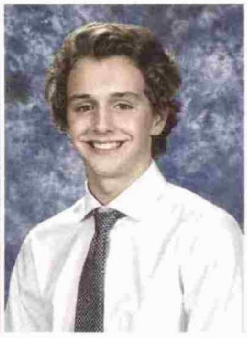
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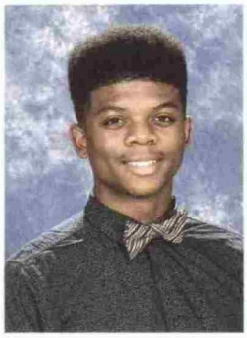
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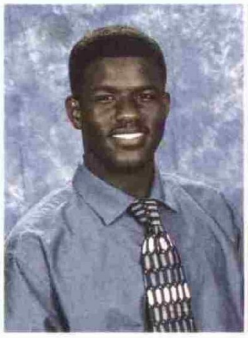
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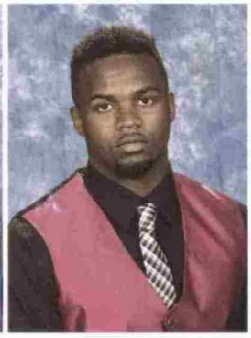
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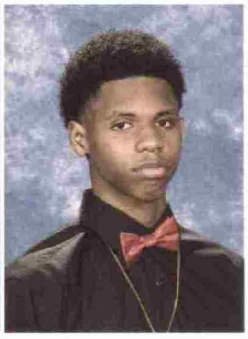
Meyianna Sullivan

Aaliyah Tapia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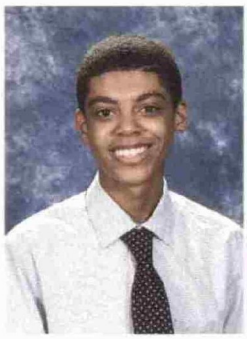
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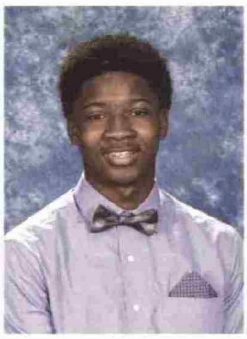
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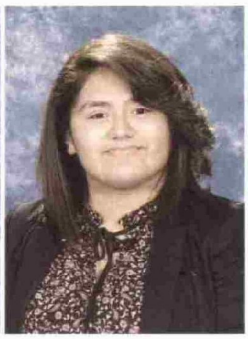
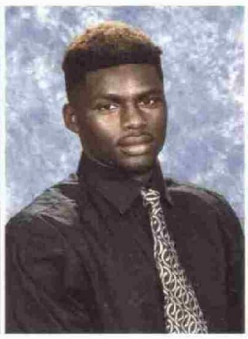

Victoria Terry

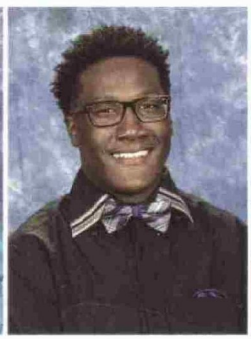

Kejuan Thomas

Raege'ne Thomas

Renajah Thomas

Kiarra Thompson

Serena Thormann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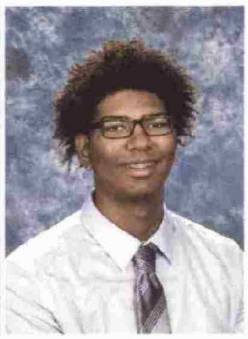
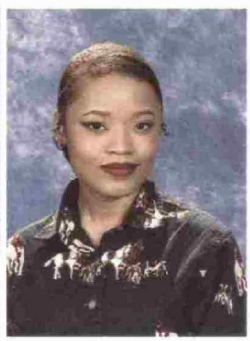
Angela Toomer


Milan Trajkovski


Alonna Traylor

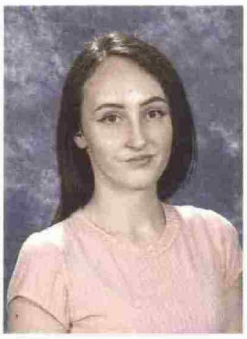
Last of the '90s Babies

Blake Turley

Justin Turner

Ciara Tyrone

Kavitha Udumula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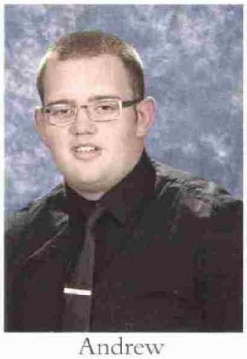
Taylor Upshaw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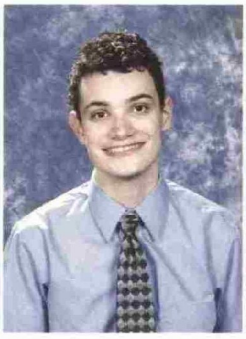
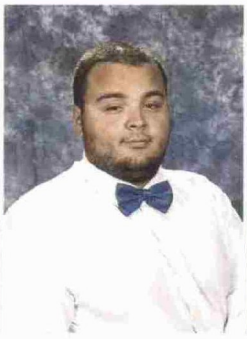
Allison Vanderbilt


Devon VanLew

Anjil Vazquez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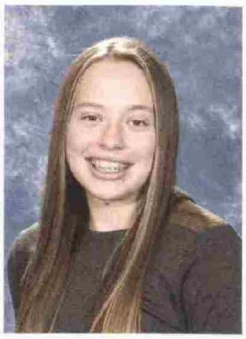
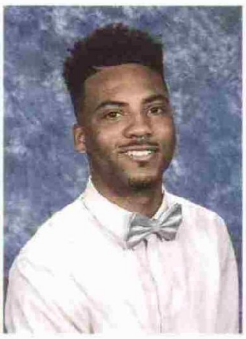
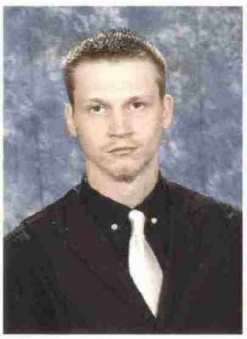

Jennifer Villanueva

Kyrann Walker


Mitchell Ward

Nikita Weaver


Christopher Webb

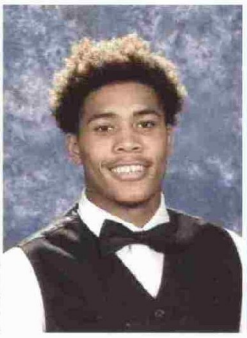
Nia Wells

Antonia' West

Jasmine White

Alyssia Whiteside

Areiana Whiteside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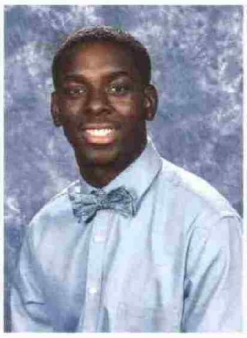
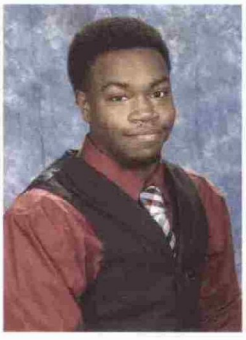

Ayron Williams

Michael Williams

Willie Williams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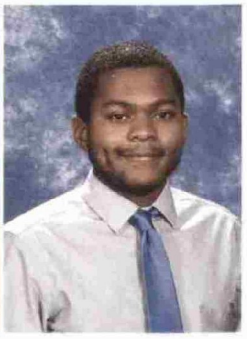
Ajah Wilson

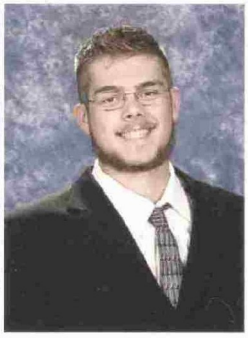
Mya Wilson

Natalie Winbon

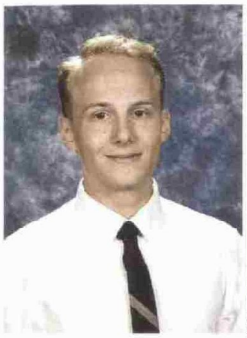

Tyler Woods

Class of 2017

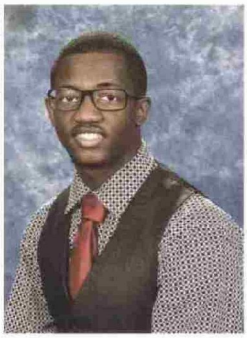
De'Jah Woodson



Nathan Woodworth



Benjamin Worthington



Justin Young

Class of 2017 Officers

President: Breyshaye Spear;
Vice President: Isaac Graham;
Secretary: Jahnari Pruitt;
Treasurer: Morgan Brinker.

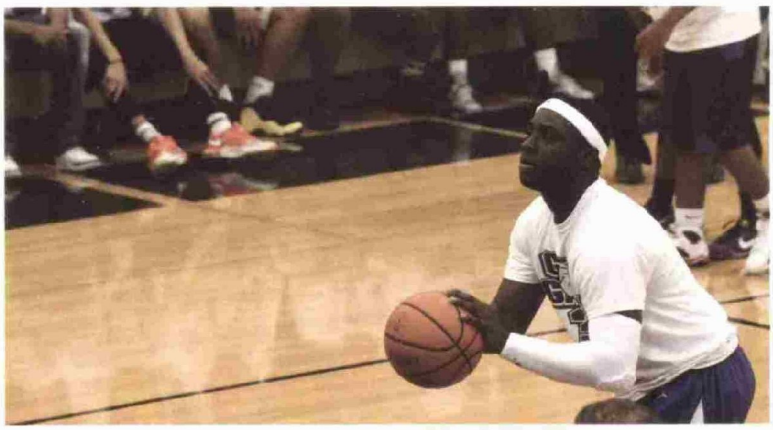
Camera shy

Areeana Adeniyi
Christian Akinbobuyi
Odalis Cerda-Sandoval
Da'Vionne Caruthers
Justus Alexander Nana Asabere
Va'Quon Banks TyRaye Austin
Maryam Muhammad Jennifer Bedolla
De'Angelo Brinson Ashley Cardwell
Melind Easto Fernanda Barrera Antonio Balducci
Demond Beatty James Davis Jack Curtis Jack Daniel
Donnovan Blue Raena Bass Tyler Greer Oma Iss
Jalisa Bolden Kenia Sanchez Sandoval Jesus Leon
James Bolden Jr Aaron Booker Dewayne Dawson II
Anthony Valdez Jordan Booker James Warner IV
Austin Carrero Michelle Waites Christopher Webb
Austin Castro Quinten Barnslater Jr Kyrann Walker Jr
Cindy Cameron Loretta Blair
Kaylyn Campbell Kyrah Pirtle
Symone Campero Akil Lloyd
Deangelo Cannon Joy Miller
Roberto Carbajal Javier Leon
Roy Castellanos Seth Ivanov
Jenise Allen Kevin Celestino
Carlos Bryant Tiarra Kurtis
Amiya Reina Heather Osorio
Indaneja Alexander Sean Pell
Tequila Chandler Tyler Jones
Erris Charleston Katrina Yon
Tyanna Watson Dondre' Wall
Cameron Clark Ashle Surra
Erika Cooper Kendall Best
Angela Coulter Elgin Prewitt
Janna Covelli Marshae Lane
Karrington Davis Sean Roche'
Kendra Skinner Jason Howell
Anthony Diaz Iren Howard
Ja'various Dixon Khari Smith
Shauntanelle Dixon Chris Rias
Jasmine Wright Walik Millsap
Darryn Daniels Jared Muiser
Jazaniel Davis Antonio Perez
Jeffery Eddins Jr Eric Orozco
Jordan Youngblood Hannah Duran Anna Mryszuk Keenan Crawford
Israel Williams Aniay Edward Sharrod Mitchell Rommelo Mayo Andrew Leon
Royal Eldridge Shaquita Moore Ronald Epting Matthew Ervin Janiya Sargent
Rachel McChristian Bradlee Ronning Lamas Andrea Sanchez Brook Shelton
Tyaisha Robinson Kendrick Smith Dejon Charleston Stephanie Stringer
Christopher Ruffin Jr Breshaye Spear D'Vaughn Steward Markeya McDowell
Ashleyrose Sparks Donovan Shields Brandon Shelton Amari Smith McPhee
Rontrell Turner Derrick Underwood Jr Lebron Todd-Neal Jr Justin Turner Jr
Anthony Timmons Jr Alexandru Murzae Kendrick Payne LaVonte Thompson
Raymond Therolus Jr Serena Thormann Ryan Thornton Zakariyya Ra Sun
Laquant Williams Lamonteon Williams Willie Williams III Perry Williams Jr

Ashlee Fields Daquan Gibson Marquise Jackson Devante Harris Christopher Hendrix
Carolyn Fleming Kordell Gibson Jackson Kamero Lawrence Harris III Avvione Jones
Alexandria Flowers Jamila Gipson Ke'Manuel Griffin Taejah Harris Moses Johnson Jr
Daria Forrest Mickie Glenn Jr Shauniece Griffin Shawntez Johnson Suzanna Broom
DaiQuan Ford Carlos Golden Austin Griffith Tabitha Hawthorne Victor Gutierrez
Brittany Gardner Tiffanie Goodman Olivia Guevara Dontrell Henderson Jr Elvis Herman
Aariyon Gaulding Da'Vontay Gray Justin Young Diamond Henderson Unique Blakely
Sheteka Gibson Baker Brianna Guzman Leonard Hambrick Ozell Johnson Anjil Vazquez
Everett Gatlin Dakayla Green Georgia Thayer Sydney Harper Nicole Webster Ahmad Hall
Eugene Gibson Baker Brianna Brown Mohammad Hamad Richard Jones III Tyreak Thomas
Montel Jones Jr Shanell Phillips
Jermell Kimbrough Jasmine White
Deserae Angel King Larissa Hart
Kenneth Kirkham Jr Andre Kopc
Angel Hernandez Kylen Terrell
Oscar Hernandez Jr Hunter Hall
Monica Hernandez Angela Cross
Rogelio Hernandez Aisha Taylor
Yulissa Hernandez Anyee' Ayers
Stephanie Herrera Jordan Tate
Shaylon Hill Kyle McCallister
Robert Jackson Anthony Reese
Antonio Kneeland Jr Mary Jones
Roosevel Liddel Michael Strain
Richard Lacefield Tatiana Riley
Courtney Landers Veronica Ríos
Kevin Lockett II Tyron Rias Jr
Elisha Robins Julianne Roberts
Zacharia Landor Jailand Morgan
Dewayne Holbrook III Jalen Hodge
Bryana Wheeldon Jerome Lynch
Michael Hollowell Jr Kyle Davis
Romeo Hoover Chrissey Ruffin
Deddrick Houser Jr Jessicca Rone
Makayla Pearson Ayron Williams
Payton Howard Jessica Salazar
Jillian Williams Jailand Morgan
Donald Hunter Leah Waiters
Darius Hutch Patrisha Phillips
Donuai Hutch Kenyatta Smith
Ja'Nesha Shelby Kejuan Thomas
Jermaine Kimbrough Kailyn Smith
Jaron Woods Mariahcruz Igartua
Kalea Jackson Malik McMullan
Alexandria Matzaris Isaac Tolliver
Mariana Martinez David Ramirez
Martin Mercede Alonzo Wright
Thomas Marshall IV David Diaz
Ashlee Luttinen Jeremiah Perez
KaDarius McKinney Kailyn Patillo
Tajanea Mable Shiann Pendley
Caprice Lowe Tashauna Mensah
Nijah Tyson Alexandru Murzac
Teniya Williams Jorge Luna III
Casandra Mosley David Nash Jr

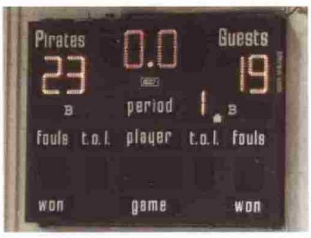
Trying to maneuver around the teachers, Senior Covieyon Glover preforms a cross-over while simultaneously thinking about his next move to score. "Considering that none of us actually play basketball for real, we worked our hardest and did all we could've done at the moment," Glover said. Glover said he was kind of out of shape, so that got to him the most, and he should've did much better. The coaches made sure every player got playing time.

Catching the ball, Senior Joseph Harris II gets ready to dribble. "Our coaches were great and made some pretty good play calls," Harris said. Harris said he believed that the teachers acted childish and cried about every little call.

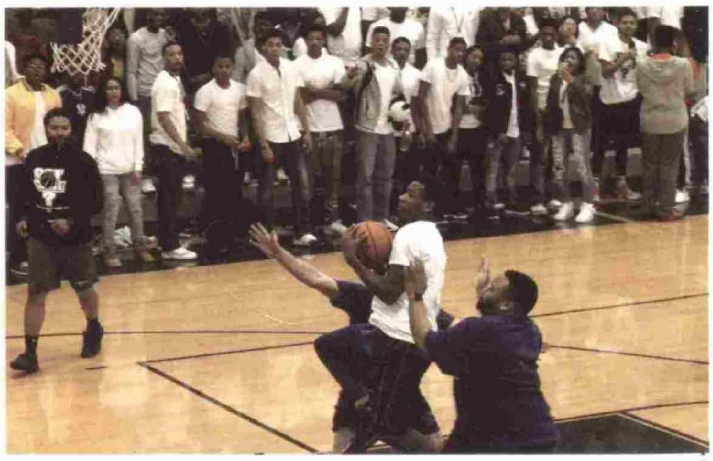


With his eyes on the hole, Senior Nickelous Riley attempts a free throw. "Personally, I feel like the teachers weren't even that good," Riley said. "They're all old and out of shape." The team participated in four practices with scrimmage drills.

The scoreboard shows that the seniors lost to the teachers.

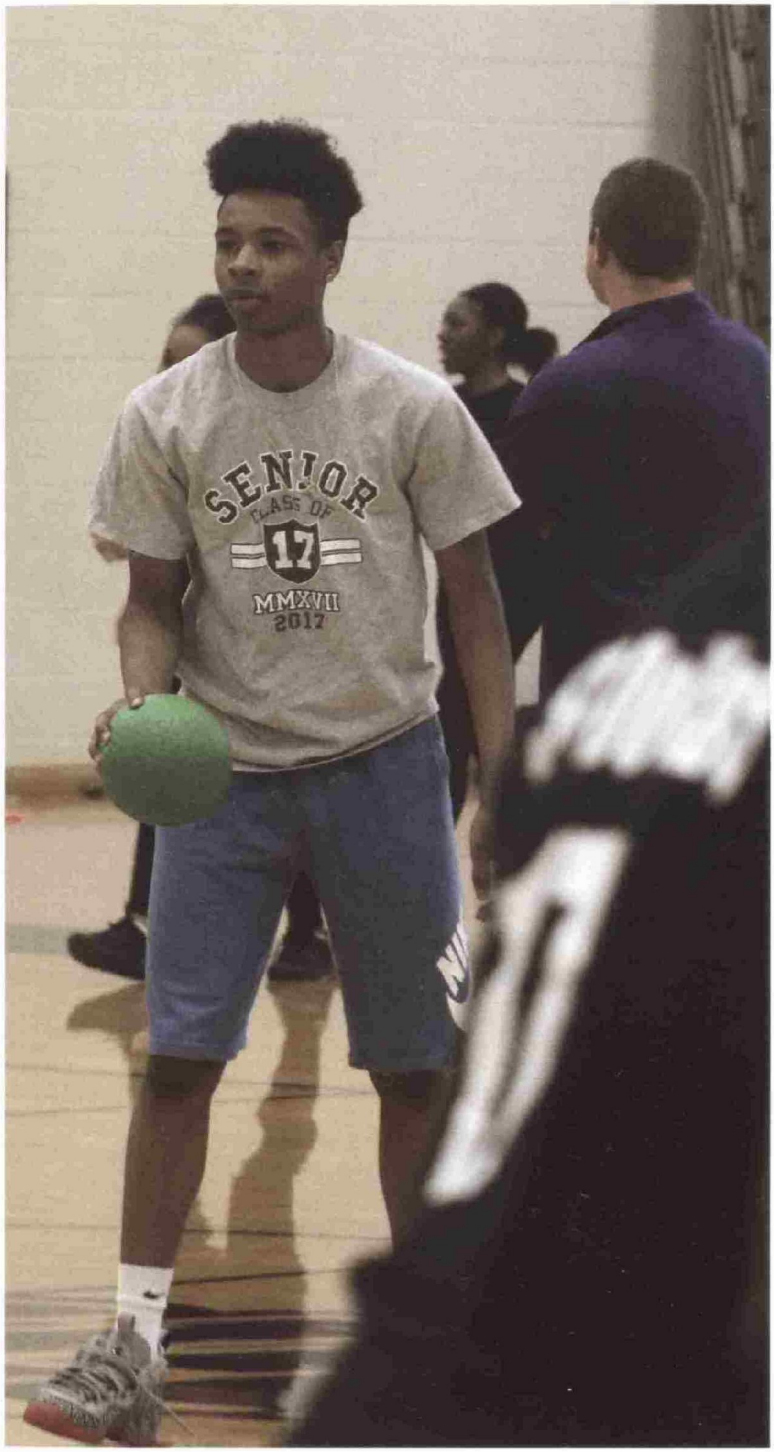


In the air, Senior Ja'various Dixon goes for a lay up. "All of the players did a good job, but I just feel that some of them choked when they got in front of the whole school," Dixon said. "Most of us did better at practice than on the court." Dixon said that the teachers were nothing more than expected and they were no competition for him.

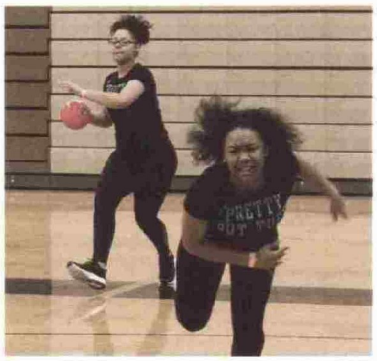


Basketball

Dodgeball



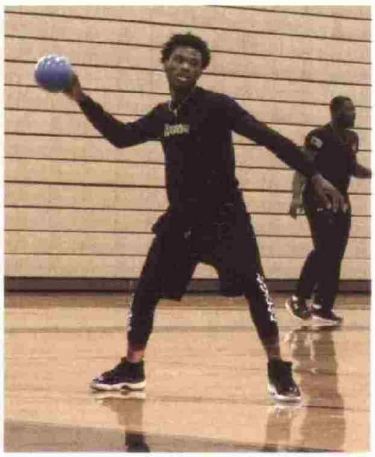
As he holds a ball in his hand, Senior Dominic McLemore gets ready to get someone out during the Senior Dodgeball tournament. His team, Brothers 4 Life (B4L), was the only team who had to find three substitute players because the originals couldn't attend. "It actually felt great to win the tournament," McLemore said. "So many people doubted us because we just got the new players that day." McLemore said playing with the original B4L players was a great experience because the boys have all been very close for a long time. McLemore said playing during halftime was very tiring because he was also playing in the Senior-Faculty Basketball Game.

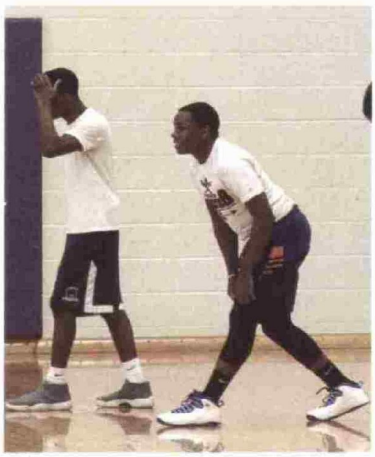


To eliminate the other team, Seniors JayLynn Hardrick and JaeLenn Johnson aim the ball toward their opponents. "The best experience from the game was when I got my glasses knocked out," Hardrick said. Pretty Tough was one of the first female teams to get out of the first round.

Aiming at Coach Anthony Curry, Senior Kenyatta Smith tries to get him out. Smith got Coach Curry out more than once. Their team, Dark Side, made it to the final four teams left and were one of the three groups to raise the most money for their class. "Hitting people was the best part, but I really joined because I thought we were going to win," Smith said.

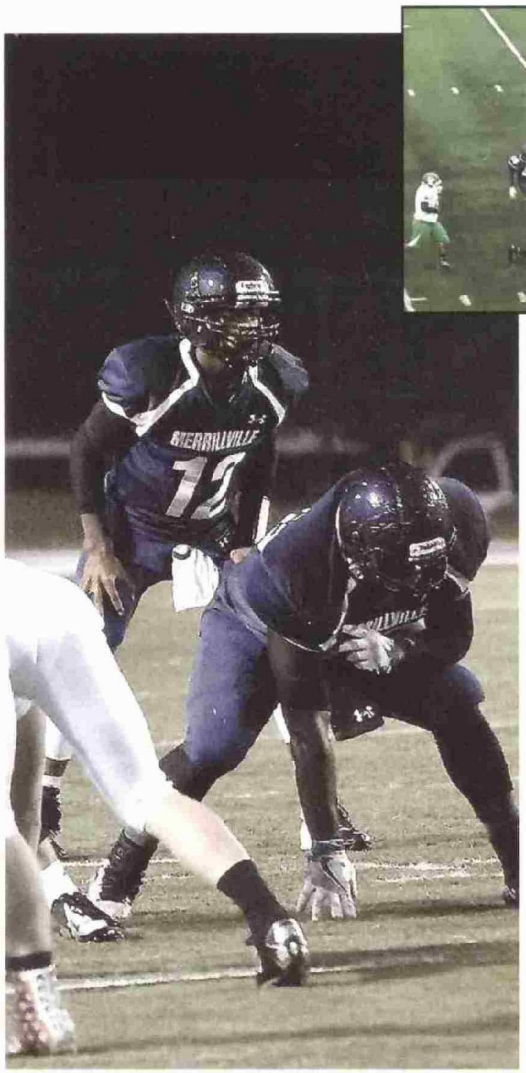
Captain of the team, Monstars, Senior Dajon Newton gets ready to throw the ball. "It was great to do something with my class and being involved more with them," Newton said. Newton said that his favorite part of the game was smacking Mr. Paul Wirtz out because it made him look good.





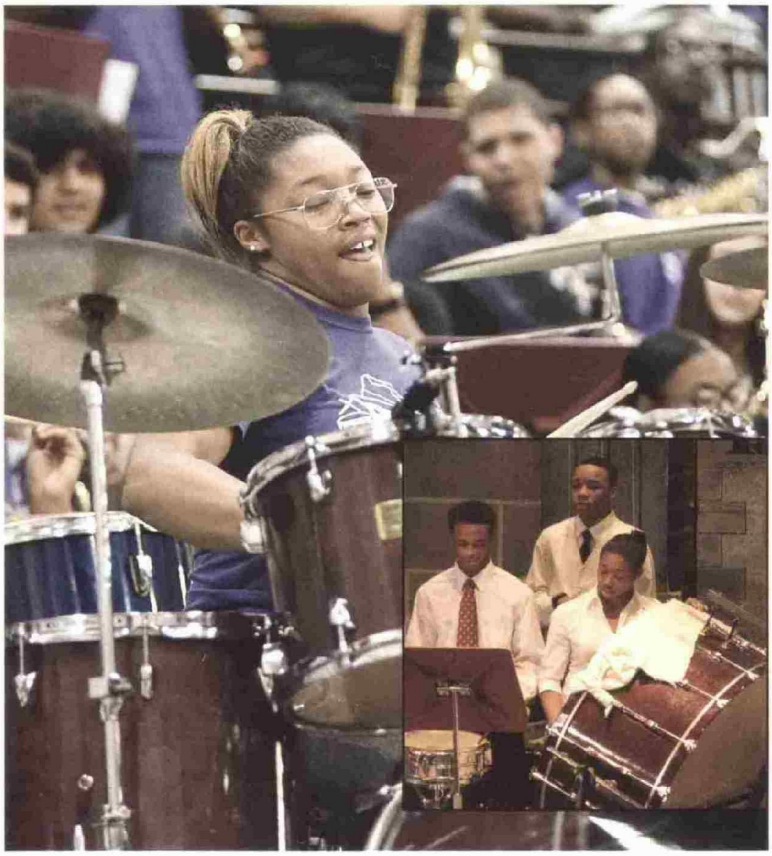
With a smile on his face, Senior Ke'Manuel Griffin and his team, Move in Silence, get ready to attack the opposing team. "We only practiced twice before the tournament," Griffin said. "That's probably why we didn't go as far as planned." Griffin said it was an all-around great experience because he just loves to compete.

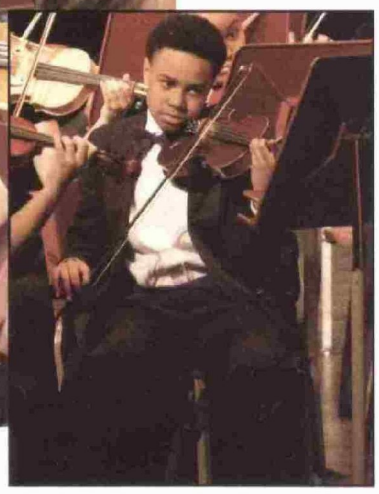
Way back when



In his starting stance, offensive lineman Senior Isaiah Davis gets ready to guard his quarterback. Davis played football all four years of high school. "The pure love I gained for the game made me stay dedicated to the sport," Davis said. "Football helped me stay focused and disciplined my whole high school career." (Inset) Davis said he used to hate playing football as a freshman, but never quit and eventually improved himself in every aspect, moving from defensive lineman to both defensive and offensive lineman for the rest of high school.

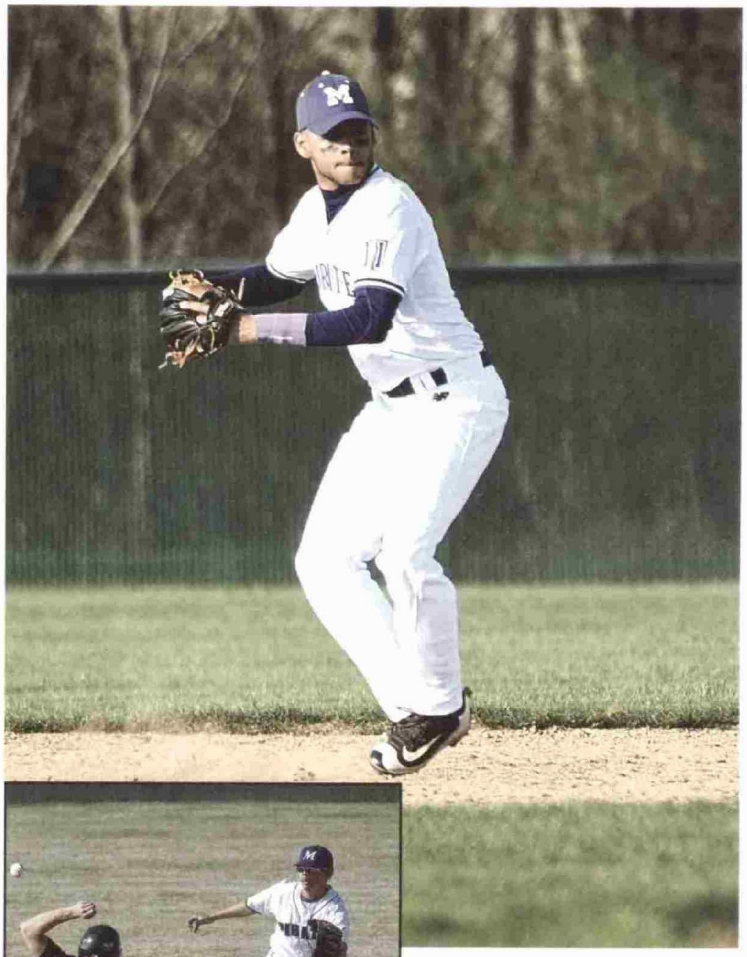
When she starts to feel the music, percussionist, drumline captain and pep band drummer Senior Kaja Sims plays the song "The Horse." Sims played the drums for most of her life and was committed all four years of high school. "Being captain of the drumline is amazing," Sims said. "I got to use the skills that I learned when I wasn't section leader to show a crowd of people that we could make great music that everyone could groove to." (Inset) Sims plays in her first Holiday Concert as a freshman. She said it was a great experience because she got to play along with upperclassmen.

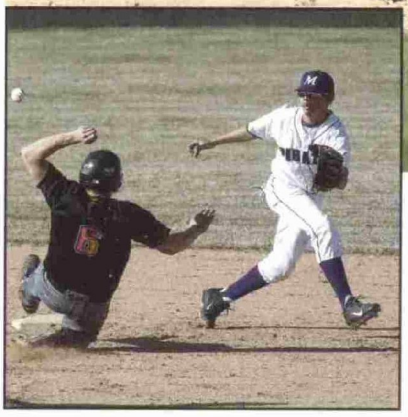




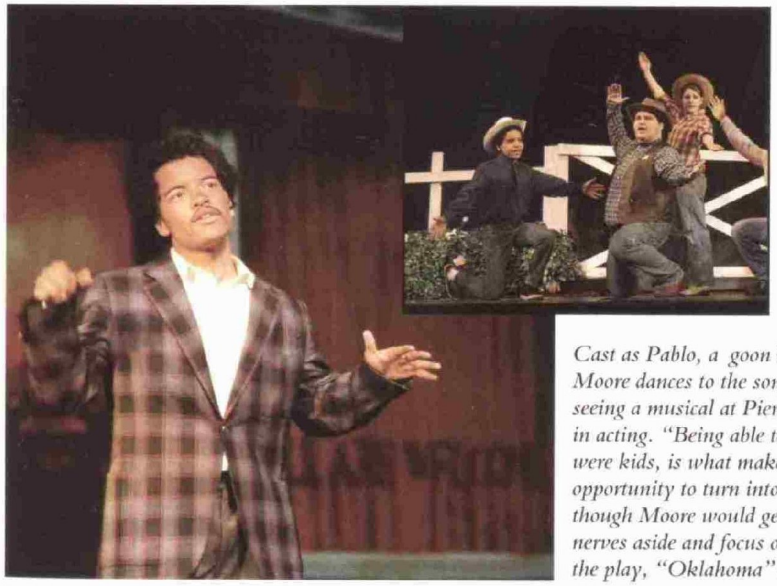
With eyes on his sheet music, violinist Senior Jakobe Edmond plays in the Holiday Concert. Edmond first started playing the violin in the sixth grade when he started to get attached to the sound of music. "Music gives me a chance to get a mellow mind and just escape everything around me," Edmond said. Edmond said he always loved playing and listening to music, and his goal is to earn a second major in music. (Inset) As a freshman, Edmond said he would always get nervous before a concert, because it wasn't only freshmen at the concerts.

With the ball in his hands, shooting guard Senior Sharrod Mitchell goes up for a lay up over a Bishop Noll defender. Basketball was Mitchell's favorite sport ever since he was a child. "I've been playing ball with the same boys my whole life, and it doesn't feel like we're even friends anymore," Mitchell said. "It's more of a family and those will always be my brothers." (Inset) One of the few freshmen to play on the junior varsity team during his freshman year, Mitchell played in the varsity game against Andrean.





After he fields the ball, second baseman Senior Darius Kendall gets ready to throw the ball to first base for an out. Kendall said he became interested in baseball when he was a child and realized he loved to play catch and use a bat. "Being the smallest one on the team made me a target to all the upperclassmen," Kendall said. "They would try to pick on me, but it didn't stop me from showing everyone what I'm capable of." Kendall said he believes the Merrillville baseball field isn't going to be the last field he steps foot on. (Inset) Kendall was the only freshman to play on the varsity team in the spring of 2014.



Cast as Pablo, a goon in "Sister Act The Musical," Senior Brian Moore dances to the song, "When I Find My Baby." Moore said seeing a musical at Pierce Middle School made him become interested in acting. "Being able to go on stage and play pretend, like when we were kids, is what makes acting so fun," Moore said. "You get the opportunity to turn into a completely different person on stage." Even though Moore would get nervous, he said he would always push his nerves aside and focus on having fun. (Inset) Moore sings and acts in the play, "Oklahoma" as a freshman.

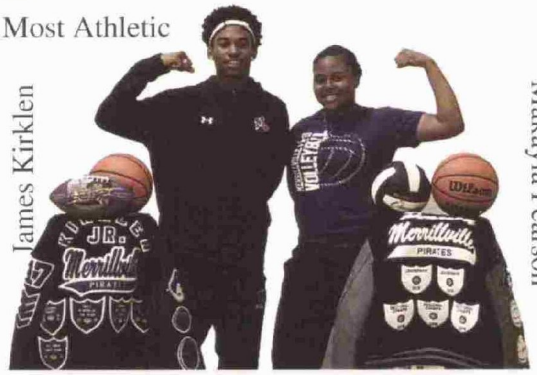
Senior Choice Awards

Class of 2017

Most Athletic

James Kirklen

Makayla Pearson

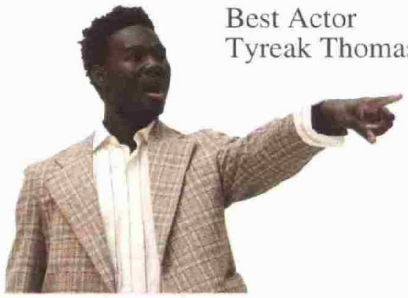


Best Personality

Jakobe Edmond

Anya Johnson

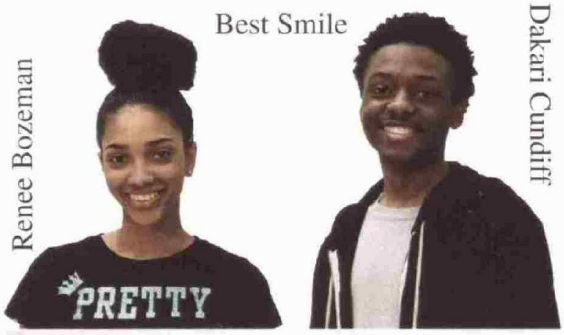
Best Actor
Tyreak Thomas



Best Smile

Renee Bozeman

Dakari Cundiff



Most Likely
to Succeed

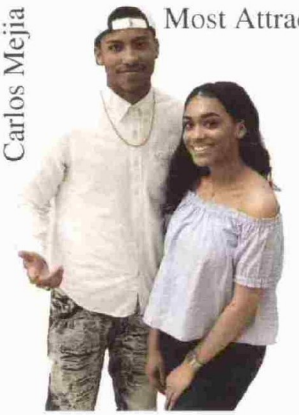
Darius Hutch

Breshaye Spear

Most Attractive

Carlos Mejia

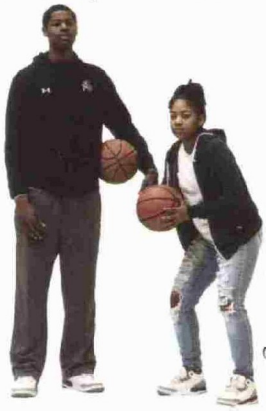
Mya Wilson



Most Likely to be Famous

Mileek McMillan

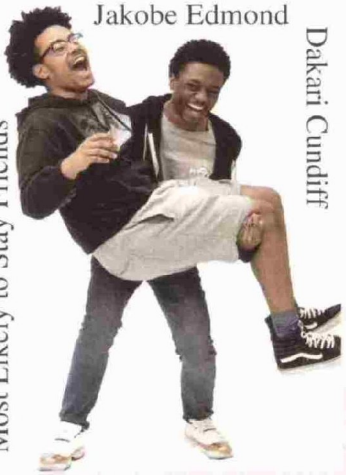
Jasmine Wright



Jakobe Edmond

Most Likely to Stay Friends

Dakari Cundiff



Best Hair

Jamila Gipson
Traevon Banks

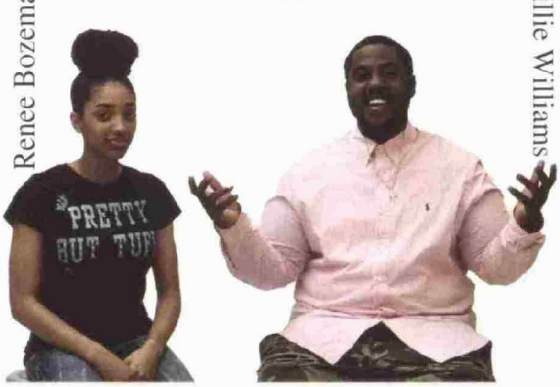
Most Actively
Involved

Justin Smith
Halina Duke

Class Clown

Renee Bozeman

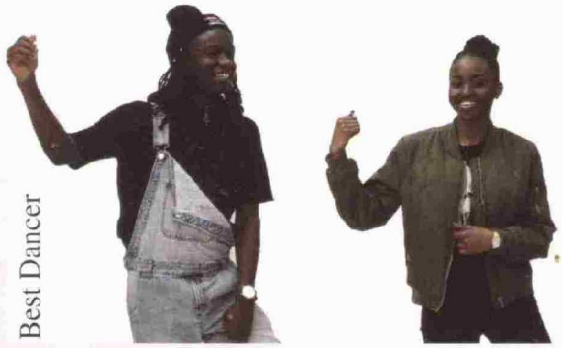
Willie Williams



Shelton Meyers

Carnisa Laster

Best Dancer



Best Dressed

Lamonteon Williams

Taylor Upshaw

Best Eyes

Samantha Kale-Foster

Most School Spirit

Cynthia Gomez

Carlos Mejia

Best Car

Jakobe Perry

Mallorie Michalak

Most Spiritual

Cherise' Higgins

Kyle Davis

Cutest Couple

Kiarra Thompson

Jonah Jackson

Most Talkative

Alicia Frazier

Terrell Foster

Most Likely
to Come Back and Teach

Samantha
Kale-Foster

Gerald Akujobi

Most Intelligent

Morgan Brinker

Steffan Santiago

Most Musical

Kaja Sims

Maxwell Moore

Most Popular

Alexus Shirrells

Joseph Harris

Most Artistic

Jerome Lynch

Senior Breakfast

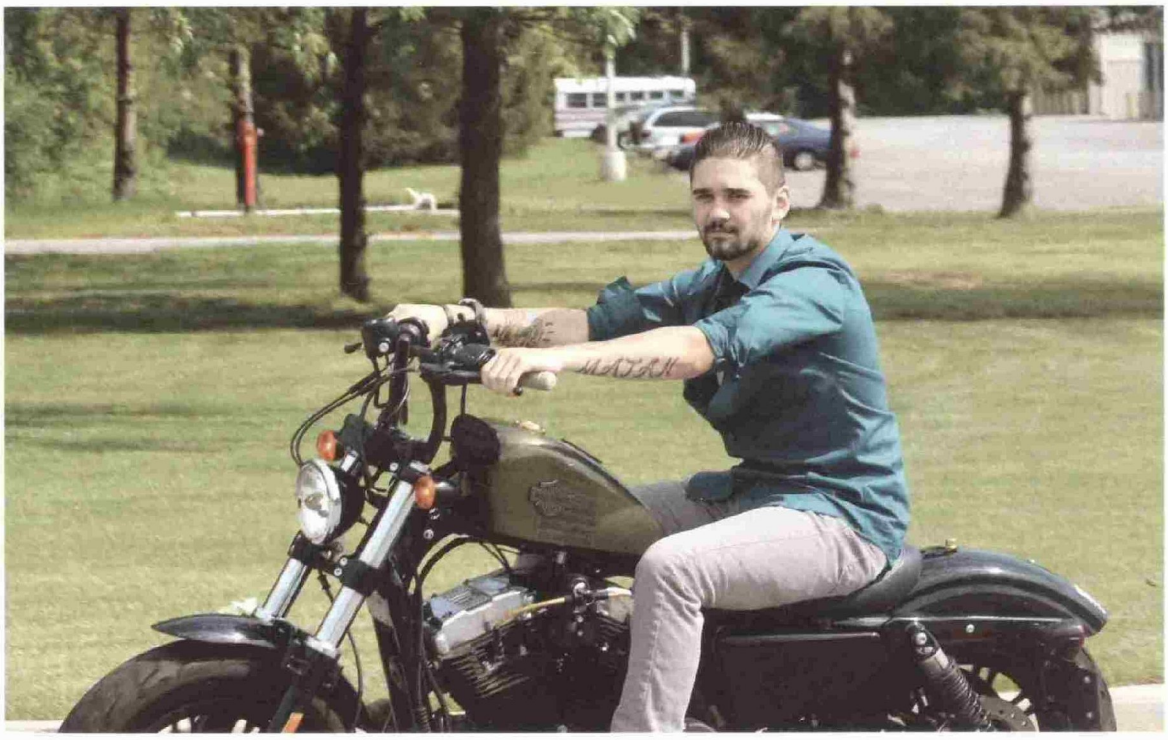
During Senior Breakfast on May 26, Class of 2017 Vice President Isaac Graham calls Senior Morgan Brinker to the podium to be recognized as Most Intelligent. Senior Choice nominees are voted on by the class and awarded during the breakfast. "I liked the senior video because I got to see the best moments from our time here," Brinker said. Brinker graduated fifth in her class and plans to atttend Brown University.

With Seniors Julianna Carrillo and Karina Robledo, Senior Jose Garcia eats breakfast in the cafeteria. Garcia said he believes the breakfast and drive-around are opportunities for the seniors to do something fun together. "I really liked hanging out with all my friends," Garcia said.

Each sporting black shirts and bow ties, Seniors James Davis, Moises Diaz and George Luna have breakfast with Senior Michael De La Peña.

Drive-Around

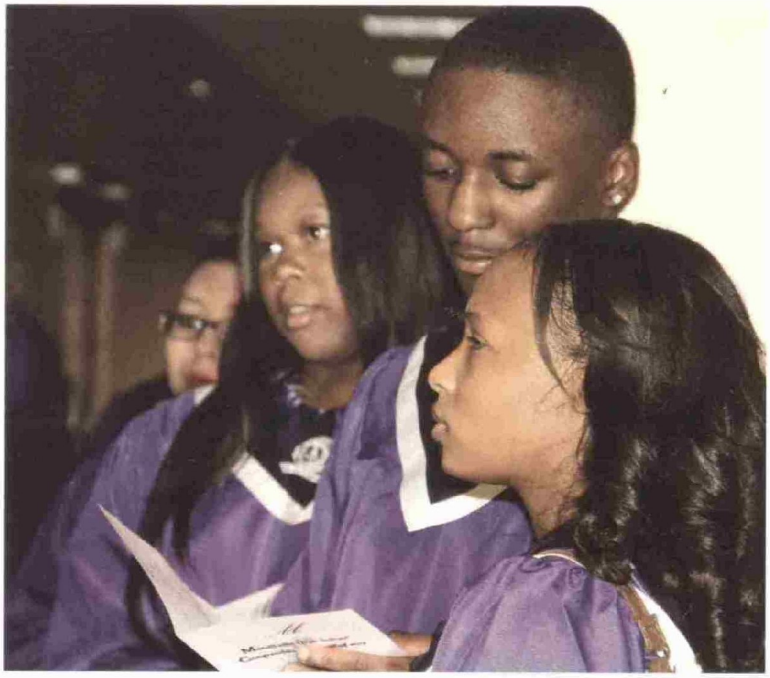
Before leaving the school, Senior Ja'Various Dixon hopped in the car to ride with his friend Senior Lawrence Harris. "It was a good experience and I enjoyed the breakfast and drive-around" Dixon said. "After the drive-around, I went to my house and left to the beach. Seeing my class together one last time was fun, and it's definitely something seniors should go to," Dixon said.

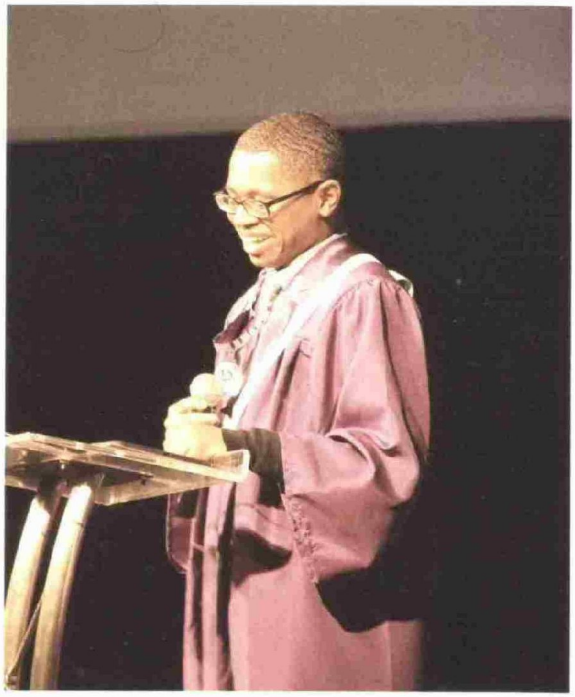


Holding the clutch, Senior Matthew Gonzalez waits to continue the drive-around. "It was fun and a new experience. I got to drive around the school with my class, and it felt like it symbolized a final hooyah," Gonzalez said. "After the drive- around, I took the bike for a joy ride all the way to Chicago. Being the only one driving a motorcycle made me feel special and unique."

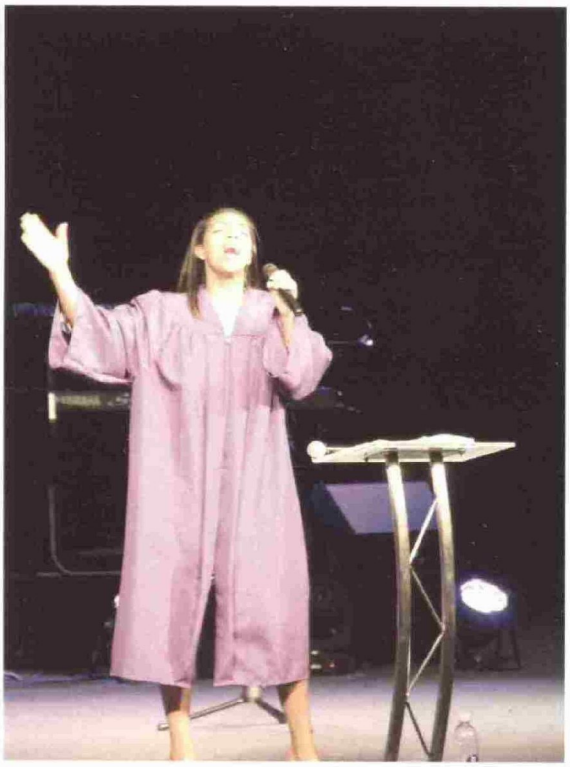
Baccalaureate

Before Baccalaureate, Senior Justin Jerry waits in the foyer at Living Hope Church with Senior Jasmine McGee. "I'm going to Ivy Tech in Hammond for two years and then I'm going to the Air Force to be an electrician. And if everything goes my way, my starting salary is $90,000." Jerry said.





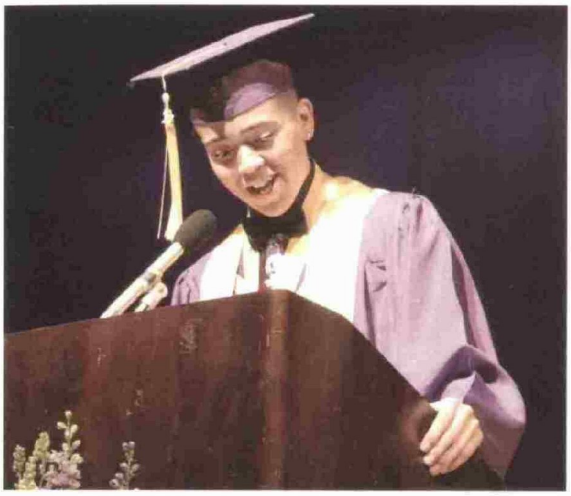
"All throughout life people may face many different trials and troubles, but God is always with you through it all," Senior Kyle Davis told seniors to prepare them for what they might face in their lives. "I remember the many pillars that I lost in my life, and without God I would have never made it this far," Davis said.



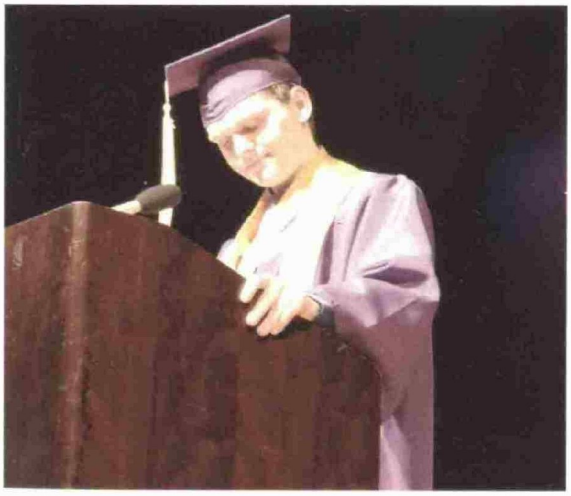
To give seniors hope and words of encouragement for their future endeavors Senior Cherise' Higgins sings "His Eyes on the Sparrow" to convey to students that God is always watching over and protecting people. Higgins read a letter and told the class about some of the struggles from her childhood. "Singing with the senior choir group was by far the best moment of the night. I will never forget those people for as long as I live," Higgins said.

Reciting a speech from "Where You're From, Who you Are and Your Dreams," Senora Monica DaCostaGomez talks to the seniors about her students' bracelet project. The project showcased the students' favorite things and emphasized everyone can love different things and achieve goals in his or her own way. "I used the story of Joseph from the Bible to emphasize to students that what you believe in can come to pass one day, so never lose hope in your dreams," Senora DaCostaGomez said. "When students came up to me and told me how much I helped them, it was an almost immediate high of enjoyment that my speech meant that much to them regardless of the length."

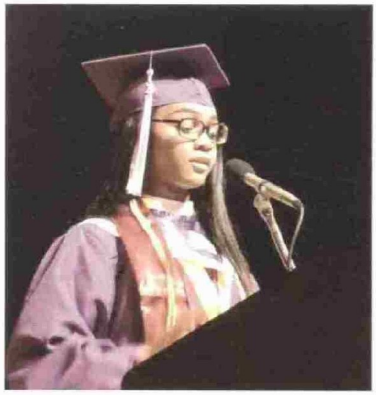
After receiving her diploma cover, Senior Timoya Bryant embraces her friend, Class President Breshaye Spear.



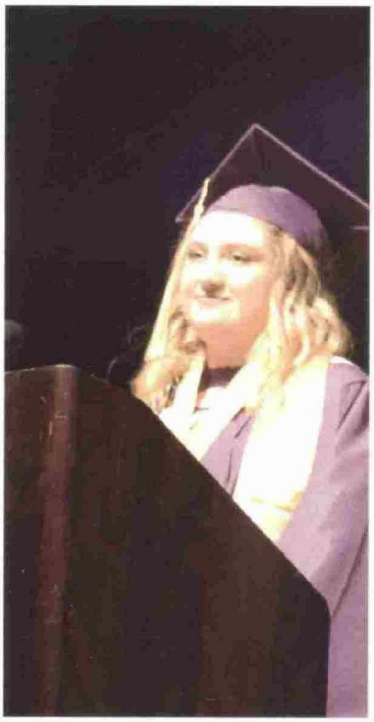
In his speech, Valedictorian Steffan Santiago gives life advice to his fellow seniors. "Life is about learning life lessons in order to understand how the world works," Santiago said. "Sometimes life does not go as planned, but it is all about how you react and adjust to change." Santiago closed the speech by getting the seniors to shout with him, "Can I get a hooyah! Can I get a seniors! Can I get a 2017!"



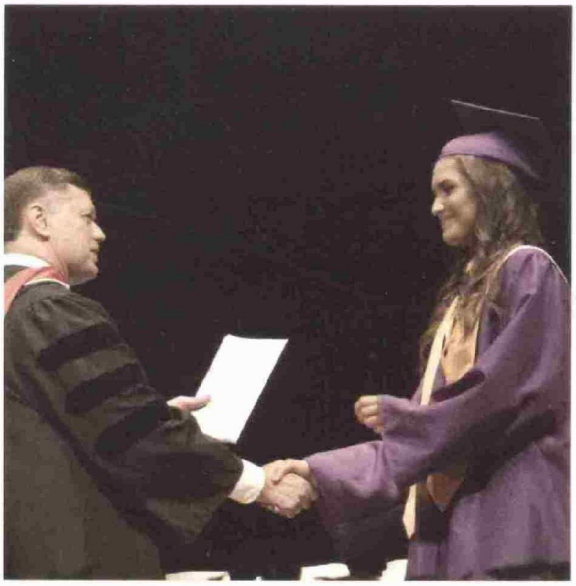
Speaking to his fellow classmates, Valedictorian Joel Schwartz said, "I know that in this class there is potential for each of us to do something with our lives. As long as we work hard, there will be very little that any of us will not be able to accomplish."



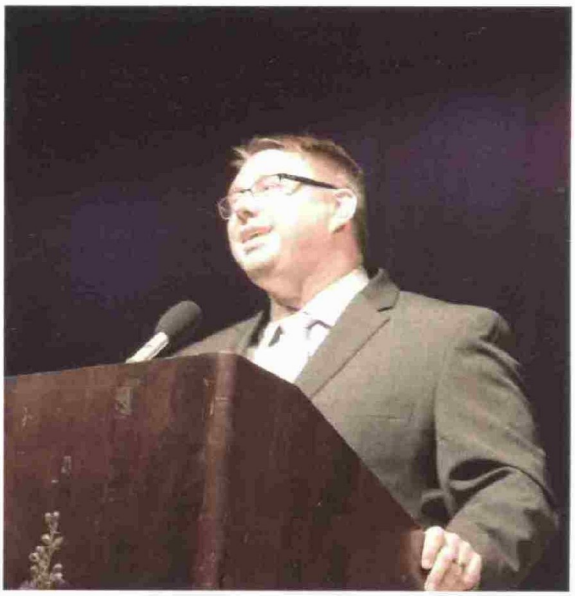
In a letter to her classmates, Class of 2017 President Breshaye Spear said, "There was the night before freshman year we all stayed up late, planning out the perfect outfit and making sure our friends knew where to meet." Spear ended the speech by offering guidance. "Thank you, Class of 2017, for allowing me to stand up here today in front of you," Spear said. "Move slow and reminisce, but don't dwell too long. Make room for new memories because as you cross this stage, you'll never be the same person you are right now."



After her introduction, Salutatorian Alisha Mongold said, "People are surprised to find out that I am salutatorian, yet don't know the exact path I want to take. It's been hard to pinpoint the direction I want my life to take." She encouraged students to work hard and "focus on forward motion."



At the Star Plaza Theatre on June 1, Superintendent Dr. Jeffery Studebaker shakes hands and offers the diploma cover to Senior Fabienne Laurisch. Laurisch ranked fourth in her graduating class.



The featured speaker for the Commencement of the Class of 2017, English teacher Mr. Alan Mizimakoski addresses the seniors. "Do not let negativity bother you," Mr. Mizimakoski said. "Always do your best in life. Always strive to be the best version of you." He closed his speech with advice. "See, you only have one life, so you need to do everything in your power to truly love it."

Commencement

Unified Track

Freshman Damian Dixon, Sophomore Ryan Brown, Freshman Malachi Williams, Sophomore Anthony Johnson, Junior George Perosky and Freshman Davin Latiker give a thumbs-up in their first track meet.

Before Senior Night, the seniors of the Unified Track Team pose for a picture in front of the school's main entrance. Front row: Brianna Brown; Second row: Jaquisha Haymon, Ceana Escalante, Julian Russell, Olivia Guevara, Caitlin Perosky, Hannah Stevens; Back row: Coach Chris Richardson, Westley Jordan, Jaylon Gordon, Ryan Brown, Coach Alicia Lasky, George Perosky, Anthony Johnson.

Unified Track Team members Tykia Jones, Caitlin Perosky and Hanna Stevens share a hug with Coach Kelly Kratz. "Unified Track gives all student-athletes an opportunity to compete at a very high level," Coach Kratz said. "This team provides our track athletes an opportunity to work with and befriend some of our unified athletes. It is such a joy to work with the student-athletes on the Unified Track Team." This is the first year that Merrillville athletes have participated in the program sponsored by the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

Members of the Unified Track Team take a picture with the principal, Mr. Michael Krutz.

begins first season

Unified Track Team

Coaches: Christopher Richardson, Alicia Lasky

Front row: Kaelyn Austin, Olivia Guevara, Jaquisha Haymon, Hanna Stevens; Second row: Julian Russell, Ryan Brown, Jontrell Crowder, Anthony Johnson, Wesley Jordan; Third row: Amaya Kira, Jaihla Gordon, Arianna Chatman, Ty'kia Jones, Christina Smith, Brianna Brown; Back row: Malachi Williams, Devin Latiker, Damian Dixon, Coach Richardson, Torian Bryant, Coach Lasky, Ceana Escalante, Jaylon Gordon, Nigel Phillips.

In its inaugural year, the Unified Track Team captured the state championship.

The Merrillville team advanced after taking a third place finish at the Wheeler Sectional and tying for first place at the Kokomo Regional.

Athletic Director Ms. Janis Qualizza described Merrillville's first Unified Track meet as a "different type of atmosphere."

"It was a lot different than what you usually find at a regular track meet or tournament," Ms. Qualizza said. "There was a lot of pride and excitement that went through the entire meet. It's a special program, and we're proud to have it."

The Unified Track Team competed for the first time at Crown Point on April 20, along with several other teams, mostly from the Duneland Athletic Conference.

"It was teaching the unified kids the basics of the events, and more importantly it was about the inclusion of all athletes," Coach Chris Richardson said. "One of the main goals of this entire program was to have our regular track athletes be used as ambassadors to the special needs athletes and to establish the principle of meaningful involvement."

Coach Richardson and Ms. Alicia Lasky were the driving forces in making this program possible. Head Track Coach Mr. Patrick Coffey gave the information to Ms. Lasky, who put the athletes on a team.

Ms. Lasky said this is something beneficial for her students, as well as Merrillville as a whole.

"It's huge because it's the first time ever that our students have been able to be official Merrillville student-athletes," Ms. Lasky said. "They have a lot to offer, and they love the experience with their mentors from the regular track team. It's making an impact on my students as well as the mentors."

Two athletes that have stood out in Coach Richardson's eyes are Senior Julian Russell and Freshman Caitlin Perosky. Russell competes in the shotput while Perosky runs the 400 meter dash.

"Julian has a lot of potential for his event," Coach Richardson said. "And he's just an athlete overall. He listens well and is able to translate that well onto the shot."

"With Katelyn, she has a really good internal drive to get better," Coach Richardson said. "She is constantly working to do well in her event and it shows in her practice and work ethic."

Ms. Lasky said she has seen plenty of benefits and improvements from her students being able to participate on this track team.

"There's been a lot of improvement on their social and communication skills, plus plenty of other things," Ms. Lasky said. "It gives them self esteem that they might not have had before, since they're being a part of a team and part of Merrillville High School athletics. I think the biggest thing they get out of this is enjoying the friendships they make and interacting with other kids from other schools. Unified track has really made a difference in their lives."

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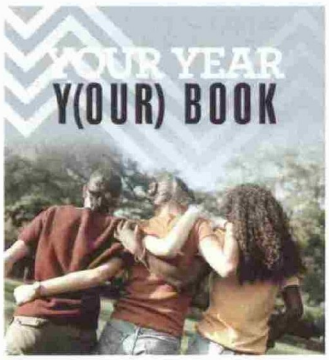

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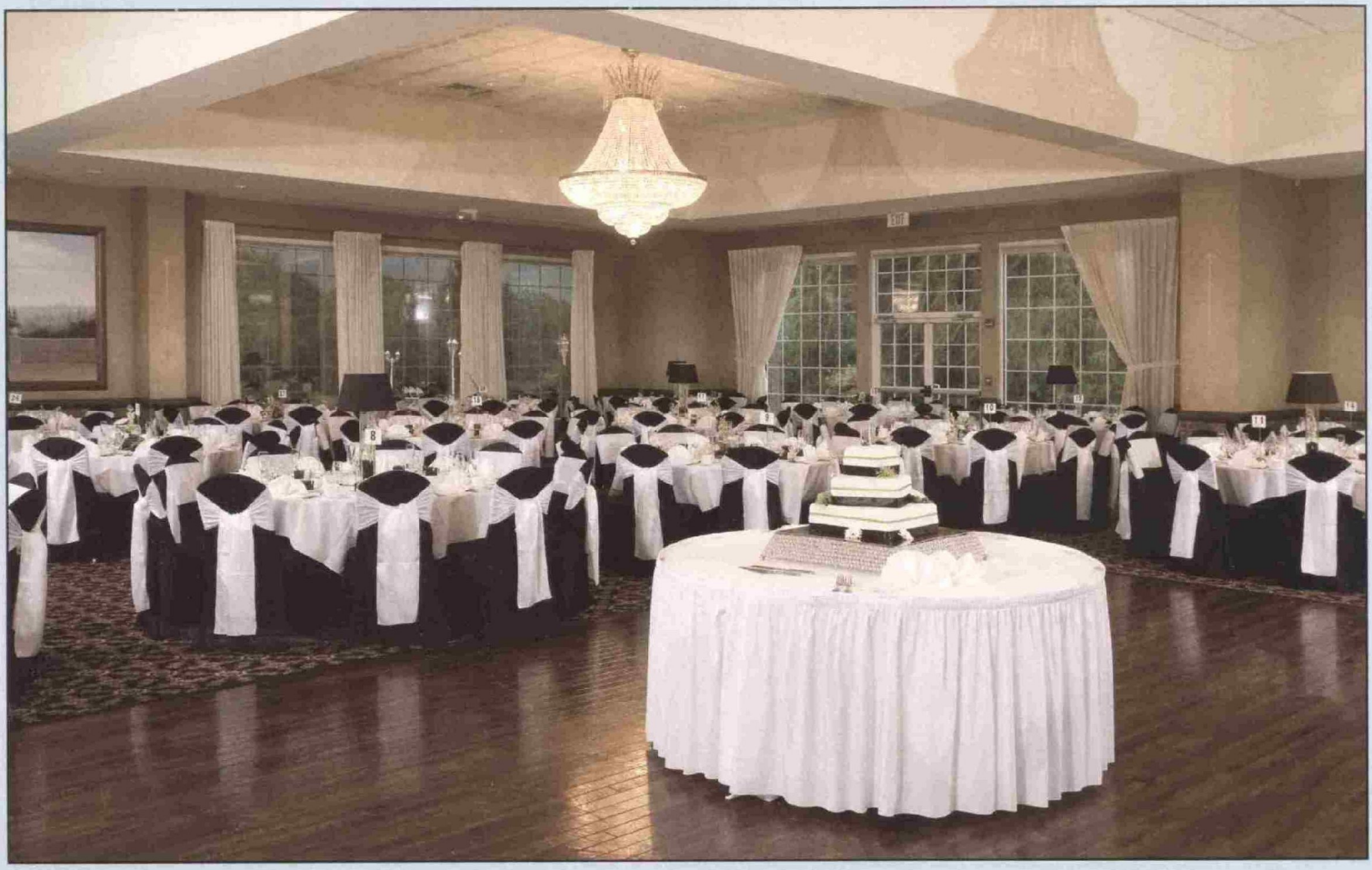

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NCAA RESEARCH

Estimated Probability of Competing in College Athletics

	High School Participants	NCAA Participants	Overall % HS to NCAA	% HS to NCAA Division I	% HS to NCAA Division II	% HS to NCAA Division III
Men						
Baseball	482,629	33,431	**6.9%**	2.1%	2.1%	2.7%
Basketball	541,054	18,320	**3.4%**	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%
Cross Country	252,547	14,218	**5.6%**	1.9%	1.4%	2.4%
Football	1,093,234	71,291	**6.5%**	2.5%	1.7%	2.3%
Golf	152,647	8,654	**5.7%**	1.9%	1.6%	2.1%
Ice Hockey	35,393	3,976	**11.2%**	4.6%	0.5%	6.1%
Lacrosse	106,720	12,682	**11.9%**	2.9%	2.1%	6.9%
Soccer	417,419	23,602	**5.7%**	1.4%	1.4%	2.8%
Swimming	138,373	9,630	**7.0%**	2.8%	1.0%	3.2%
Tennis	160,545	8,081	**5.0%**	1.7%	1.1%	2.3%
Track	580,321	27,514	**4.7%**	1.9%	1.1%	1.7%
Volleyball	52,149	1,720	**3.3%**	0.9%	0.7%	1.7%
Water Polo	21,451	1,051	**4.9%**	2.7%	0.7%	1.5%
Wrestling	269,514	6,982	**2.6%**	0.9%	0.7%	1.0%
Women						
Basketball	433,344	16,319	**3.8%**	1.1%	1.1%	1.5%
Cross Country	218,121	15,922	**7.3%**	2.8%	1.7%	2.8%
Field Hockey	61,471	5,902	**9.6%**	2.9%	1.1%	5.6%
Golf	72,172	5,076	**7.0%**	3.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Ice Hockey	9,150	2,140	**23.4%**	8.7%	1.2%	13.5%
Lacrosse	81,969	10,330	**12.6%**	3.7%	2.4%	6.5%
Soccer	374,564	26,358	**7.0%**	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%
Softball	371,891	19,047	**5.1%**	1.6%	1.5%	2.0%
Swimming	165,779	12,333	**7.4%**	3.3%	1.1%	3.1%
Tennis	184,080	9,028	**4.9%**	1.6%	1.1%	2.2%
Track	478,885	27,752	**5.8%**	2.7%	1.3%	1.8%
Volleyball	429,634	16,647	**3.9%**	1.2%	1.1%	1.6%
Water Polo	18,899	1,201	**6.4%**	3.8%	1.1%	1.5%

Estimated Probability of Competing in Professional Athletics

	NCAA Participants	Approximate # Draft Eligible	# Draft Slots	# NCAA Drafted	% NCAA to Major Pro*	% NCAA to Total Pro^
Football	71,291	15,842	256	255	**1.6%**	3.7%
M Basketball	18,320	4,071	60	47	**1.2%**	11.6%
W Basketball	16,319	3,626	36	32	**0.9%**	4.7%
Baseball	33,431	7,429	1,216	638	**8.6%**	--
M Ice Hockey	3,976	884	211	60	**6.8%**	--
M Soccer	23,602	5,245	76	72	**1.4%**	--

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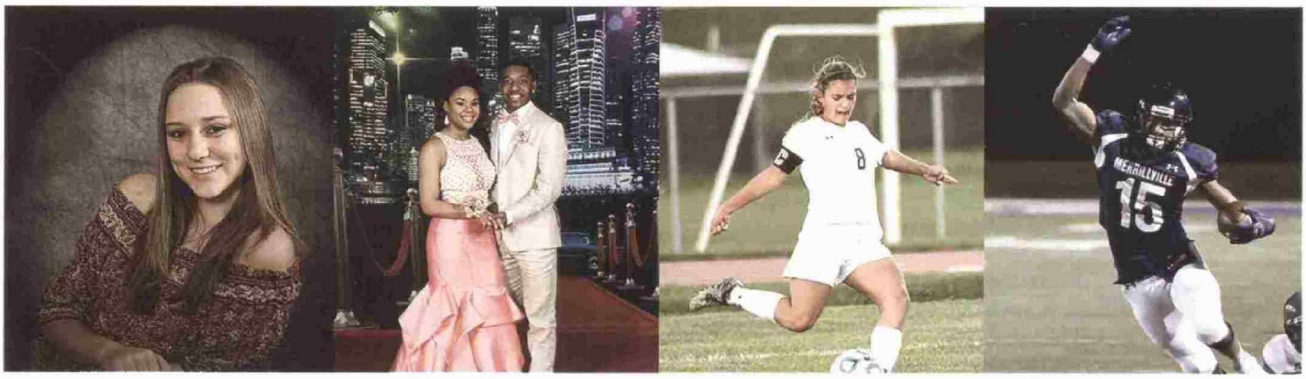

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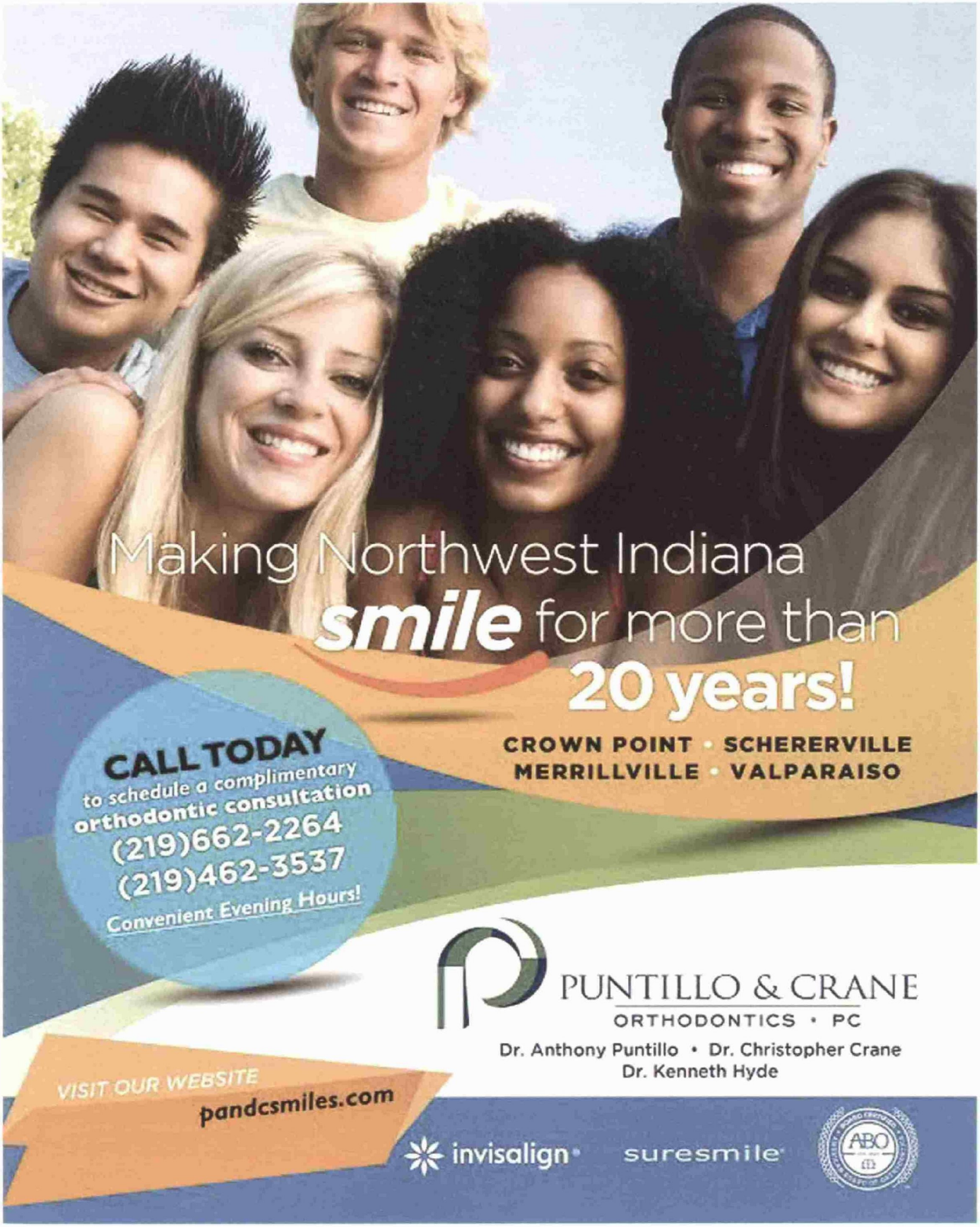
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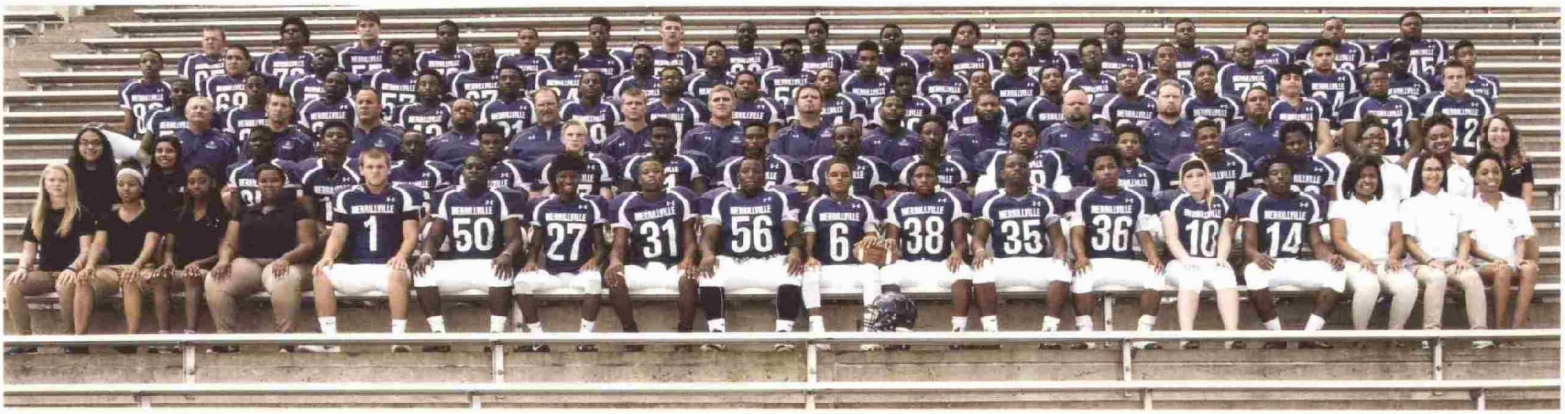

Varsity Football

Coach: Brad Seiss

Front row: *Paige Wood, Tamil Gamble, Carissa Lewis, Monique Guydon Branden Bramson, Kylen Terrell, Bobby Walton III, Roderick Bell, Keylian Brown, William Fulton III, Dwayne King, Dakari Alford, Christian Smith, Meagan Wise, LaQuant Williams, Jubilee Topps, Cynthia Gomez, Erin Sims;* ***Second row:*** *Reem Sulieman, Natalia Gonzales, Jaylen Glass, Tyler Henderson, Khalil Porter, Ramon Harris Jr., Timothy Sunny, Jalen Ray, Marvin White Jr., Ke'Manuel Griffin, Jaizon Brooks, Blake Turley, Marcus Hayes, Yashar Johnson, Tylum Moncreace, Madison Bullock, Carrington Morse, Athletic trainer Dana Deloian;* ***Third row:*** *Coach Dennis Hamilton, Coach Joe O'Connell, Coach Brian Parker, Coach Darnell Walker, Coach Joseph Atria, Coach Connor Buxton, Coach Seiss, Coach Joshua Sabinas, Coach Kenny Smith, Coach Anthony Curry, Coach Dale Sturgill, Coach Paul Trembacki, Coach Salvador Aguilar;* ***Fourth row:*** *Brett Norton, Zaire Moss, Dennis Weston, Davin Latiker, Davion Ervin-Poindexter, Dontrell Pope, Kenneth Stubblefield, Michael Shell III, Jaylen Suttles, Jawanza Williams, Cameron Wright, Moses Johnson, Anthony Swims, Marc Guerrero, Emilio Salas, Josiah Anderson, Maxwell Govert;* ***Fifth row:*** *Eric Kendrick Jr., Matthew Mallon, Devonta Rimmer, Justen Ramsey, Jay'lon Gordon, Kevin Carter, Drew Bailey, Sean Roche', Isaiah Davis, Rackesh Ragoo, Dykeil Stingley, Daijon Gray, Keiaueri Joseph, Peter Rodriguez, Tyler Carlisle, Ravi Fuentes, Robert Williams, Justus Alexander;* ***Back row:*** *Andrew Vander Woude, Milan Trajkovski, Anthony Atria, Quinten Barnslater Jr., Ryan Atkins Frazier, Kenyatta Smith, Brandon Streck, Nickoleus Riley, Miller Blackwell IV, Aaris Howard, Jordan Phelps, Thomas Adams, Tyjonn Lockett, Alfred Stubbs III, Joshua Benton, KeShawn Lilly, Anthony Sams.*

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Freshman Football

Coach: Salvador Aguilar

Front row: *Xzavier Shell, Malachi Williams, Christian Gonzalez, Adonnis Johnson, Jaden Clark, Darius Schultz, Quintus Caffey, Quantrell Caffey, James Gillespie, Teaun Ford, Brylen Gaskin, Jeremiah Williams.* ***Second row:*** *Garry Higgins, Eddie Drake, Dominique Golden, Dorcas Cooper Jr., Aryah Robertson, Nikola Djukic, Justyn Jones, Jordan Sonnier, Trevaris Cuthrell, Aahric Whitehead, Kenneth Hayes III.* ***Back row:*** *Kyree Whisenton, Steven Dortch, Khris Walton, Maurice Morgan, Nathan Woods, Coach Aguilar, Coach Paul Trembacki, Nicholas Price Jr., Darius Carrington, Darius Frierson, Zion Williams, Martes Lewis Jr.*

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Junior Varsity Volleyball
Coach: Danielle Lewis
Front row: *Mikayla Brookshire, Taira Amisu, Shania Wilson, Jodi Corrales, Diabolique Ridle, A'Mya Jamison, Madyson Davis;* ***Back row:*** *Leah Lewis, Ce'aria Thomas, Hailey Karpen, Kaila Buggs, Assyria Avery, Djarae Boykin.*

Varsity Volleyball
Head Coach: Veronica Siwy
Front row: *Emily Lesich, JayLynn Hardrick, Makayla Pearson, Alexandra Chambliss, Angela Toomer;* ***Back row:*** *Danielle Figueroa, Torian Bryant, Shelby Harmon, Alexis Ramos, Olivia Stevens, Lauren Pryle.*

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Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer
Coach: Rick Hurey
Front row: *Samuel Anguiano, Jordan McGoffney, Camren Shaffer, Juan Maldonado, Jerry Walker, Tomas Gonzalez Ruiz;* ***Second row:*** *Jose Fragoso, Jesse Villarreal, Marcos Hernandez, Jacob Maldonado, Bilal Asghar, Tori Holst;* ***Third row:*** *Marco Hernandez, Rackesh Ragoo, Christian Licea, Nikola Djukic, Juan Carrillo, Austin Vo, Martin Herrera;* ***Back row:*** *Coach Hurey, Coach Brian Past, Assistant Coach Ernesto Lopez, Assistant Coach Jimmy Ramirez.*

Boys' Varsity Soccer
Head Coach: Brian Past
Front row: *Victor Gutierrez, Michael De La Peña, Jesse Villarreal, Oscar Hernandez Jr., Masayoshi Nangin, Jacob Maldonado;* ***Second row:*** *Michael Croy, TyRaye Austin, Qwentin Richmond, Daniel Barajas, Marcos Hernandez, Tori Holst;* ***Third row:*** *David Ramirez, Dylan Burns, Aaron Corralez, Alexander Navarro, Maxwell Stevens, Jorge Gaona, Kyle Klingaman;* ***Back row:*** *Assistant Coach Rick Hurey, Coach Past, Assistant Coach Ernesto Lopez, Assistant Coach Jimmy Ramirez.*

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Girls' Varsity Soccer
Head Coach: Jeff Fairbairn
Front row: *Chadryne Tamo, Elizabeth Croy, Meagan Wise, Viviana Lagunas, Kennedy Tanniehill, Reannah Soto;* ***Second row:*** *Brianna Brown, Jenny Villanueva, Sydney Kenner, Brisa Sanford, Kristah Royster, Maritza Frazier;* ***Third row:*** *Sarah Juarez, Cynthia Quiroz, Raegene Thomas, Kyrah Pirtle;* ***Back row:*** *Assistant Coach Tammy Deel, Coach Fairbairn, Assistant Coach Jason Kendera.*

Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer
Head Coach: Jeff Fairbairn
Front row: *Britney Robinson, Laquiana Jones, Imani Butts, Natalie Ordonez, Emily Garcia, Maria Guardiola;* ***Second row:*** *Lauryn Thomas, Vanessa Carrillo-Ramos, Myjae Armstrong, Tavia Campbell, Isatou Samba;* ***Third row:*** *Yulissa Gonzalez, Abigail Diaz, Alexus Palomo, Jhonae Garmon, Jasmin Creal;* ***Back row:*** *Assistant Coach Tammy Deal, Coach Fairbairn, Assistant Coach Jason Kendera.*

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Head Coach: James Simon
Front row: *Ivan Sahagun, Justin Jackson, Cameron Louthan, D'Angelo Brown, Braden Worthington;* ***Second row:*** *Matthew Spicknall, Marcus Miller, Anthony Williamson, Tyler Jasso, Terry Sabbath, Yancy Tyler, Deion Charleston;* ***Back row:*** *Nigel Taylor, Keith Rochefort, Ayron Williams, Joseph Harris II, Justin Villanueva, Joshua Raddatz.*

Girls' Golf
Head Coach: Ms. Patti Tubbs

Kiyah Walker, Coach Tubbs, Kathryn Jurczyk.

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Boys' Cross Country
Head Coach: Michael Hoffman
Front row: *Nathan Dye, Gabriel Ochoa, Robert Bugs, Nigel Phillips, Wesley Darius, Antonio Cater;* ***Back row:*** *Coach Hoffman, Tyreak Thomas, Kadari Exson, Devin Pope, Justin Bhe, Hayden Harmon, Assistant Coach Patrick Coffey.*

Girls' Cross Country
Head Coach: Patrick Coffey
Front Row: *Marisol Ramirez, Diamond Taher, Brendea McNeal, Shamiya Beasley, Akelah Gonzalez;* ***Back Row:*** *Coach Coffey, Aniya McClendon, Akilah Ware, Prysma Valdivia, Natalie Dye, Assistant Coach Michael Hoffman.*

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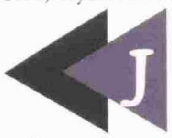

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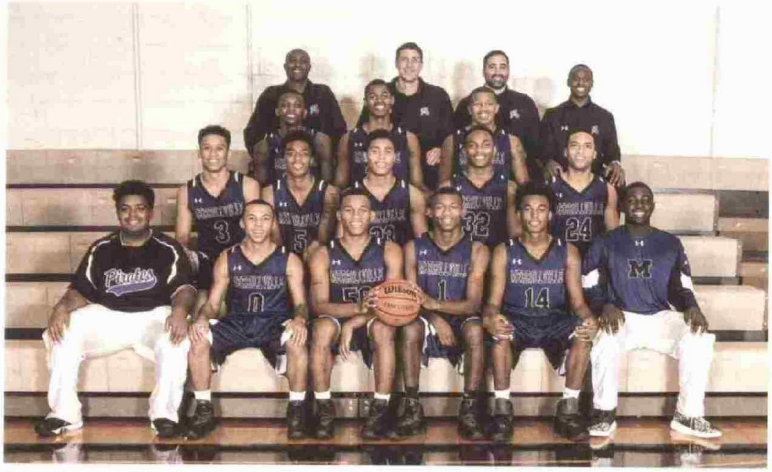
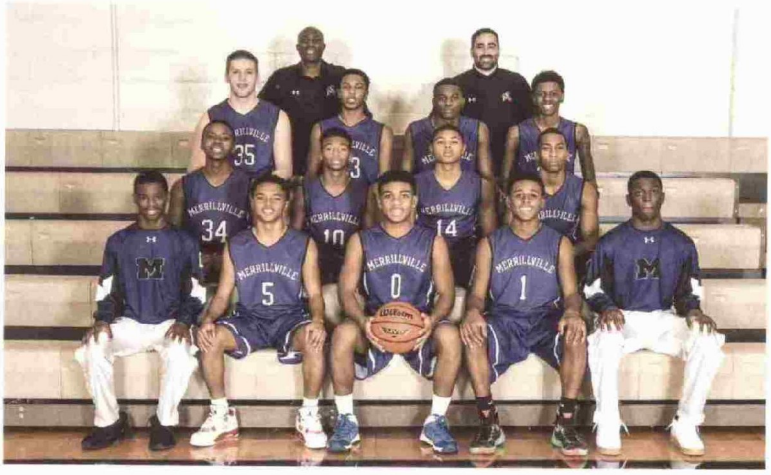


Boys' Varsity Basketball
Head Coach: T.J. Lux
Front row: *Blake Turley, Jalen Sherwood, Sharrod Mitchell, Nolen Thomas, James Kirklen Jr., Nickoleus Riley;* ***Second row:*** *Jonah Jackson, Jaylon Holmes, Cameron Wilbon, Daniel Carey Jr., Mitchell Ward;* ***Third row:*** *Rishard Balkcom, Mileek McMillan, Kameron Jackson;* ***Back row:*** *Assistant Coach Michael Holden, Coach Lux, Assistant Coach Bojan Jovanovic, Assistant Coach Bo Patton.*



Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball
Coach: Bojan Jovanovic
First row: *Adonnis Johnson, William Fulton, Anthony Swims, Cameron Wright, Bryson Jenkins;* ***Second row:*** *Antoine King, Deon Jones, Robert Sanders, Syrrus Nunn;* ***Third row:*** *Isaiah Maynard, Darryon Bandy, Lavari Ruffin, Nakia Chinn Jr.;* ***Back row:*** *Assistant Coach Michael Holden, Coach Jovanovic.*

Boys' Freshman Basketball
Coach: Michael Holden
First row: *Joshua Brooks, Jordan Booker, Jerry Walker;* ***Second row:*** *Edward Prentice, Jeremiah Howard, Eric Goodes, Angelo Winfield, Zion Williams, Dahmian Cundiff;* ***Third row:*** *Tylee Williams, Itez Mayo, Kolby Ford, Christian Hamphill;* ***Back row:*** *Martes Lewis Jr., Coach Holden, Aahric Whitehead.*

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Girls' Varsity Basketball
Head Coach: Amy Govert
Front row: *Alexus Shirrells, Amani Alvarez, Carissa Lewis, Jasmine Wright, Kennedy Tanniehill;* ***Second row:*** *Shelby Harmon, Denae Joshua, Kiarra Thompson, Makayla Pearson;* ***Back row:*** *Coach Govert, Brittney Williams, Danielle Figueroa, Raegene Thomas, Assistant Coach Kelly Kratz.*

Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball
Coach: Connor Buxton
Front row: *Janae Bandy, Dajanay Weaver, Kaylin Peterson, Jade Hamilton;* ***Second row:*** *Amari Johnson, Taira Amisu, Myjae Armstrong, Desirae Williams, Amaya Howard;* ***Back row:*** *Ma'Kaela Patterson, Destiny Walker, Coach Buxton, Armani Cole.*

Girls' Freshman Basketball
Head Coach: Christina Brown
Front row: *Jeda Briner, Maleya Hall, Aniaya Plainer, Christina Smith, Kihya Price;* ***Second row:*** *Faith Hunter, Michelle Gunnell, Katelyn Orosco, Shaiana Norwood;* ***Back row:*** *Sade' Daniel, Kamera Abram, Coach Brown, Djarae Boykin, Ayonna Taylor.*

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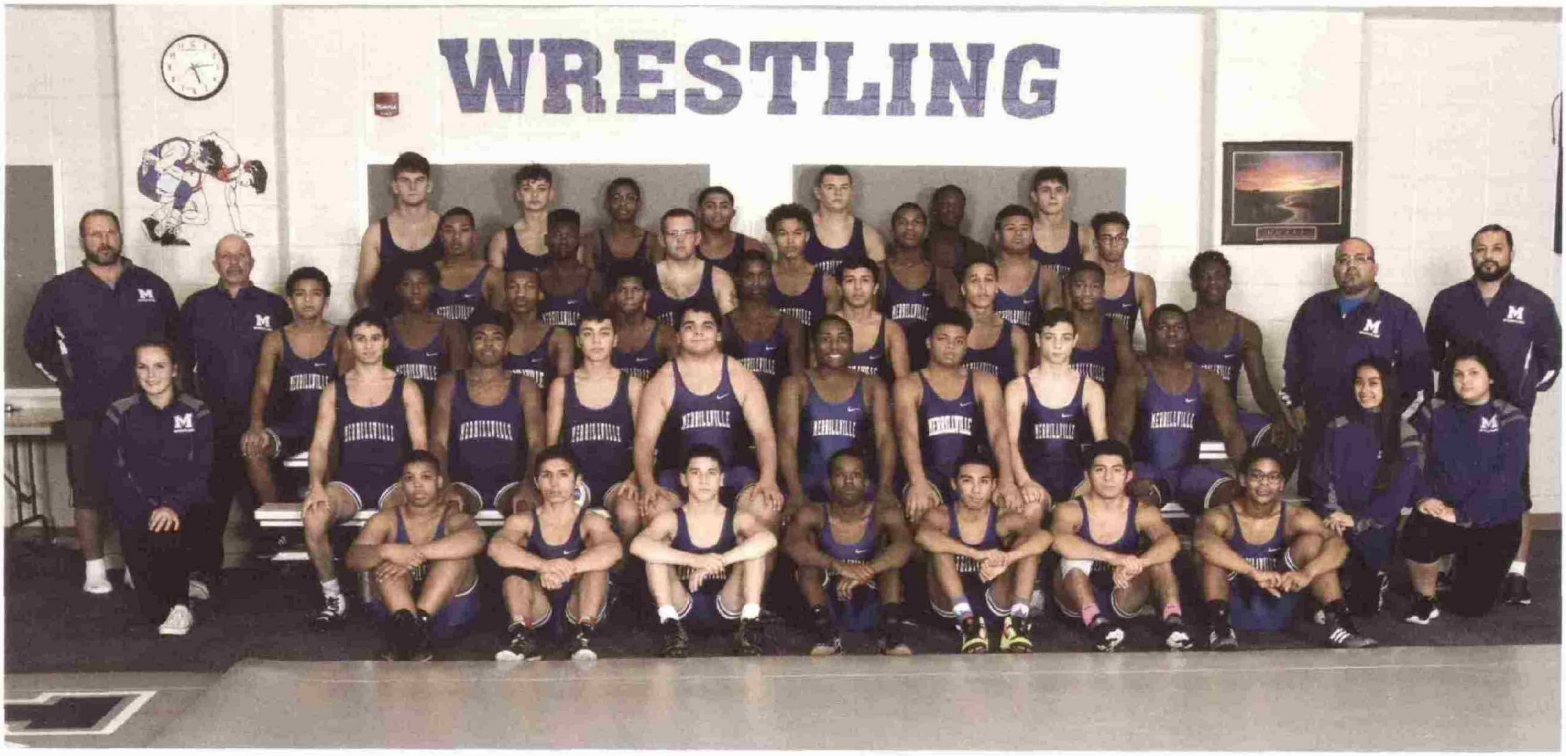

Wrestling

Head coach: David Maldonado

Front row: *Eric Williams, Angel Santos, Martin Cruz, Justin Setzer, Juan Maldonado IV, Michael De La Pena, Elijah Sandridge;* ***Second row:*** *Naomi Lux, David Rosa, Ah'zsur Ursery, Jacob Maldonado, Izaac Garcia, Ali Abdullah Jr., Jadon Exford, Anthony Rivera, Kylen Terrell, Jodi Corrales, Monique Duque;* ***Third row:*** *Assistant Coach Joe Atria, Assistant Coach Gene Bierman, Tyler Turner, Antino Barnes, Courtney Davis, Kobe Williams, Darius Frierson, Christopher Castaneda, Malik Hoover, Aaron Griggs, Oluwaseyi Akinwumi, Coach Maldonado, Assistant Coach Paul Maldonado ;* ***Fourth row:*** *KeShawn Lilly, Drew Bailey, Andrew Vander Woude, Romeo Hoover, Khris Walton, Joshua Benton, Devin Pope;* ***Back row:*** *Anthony Atria, Alexander Navarro, Irvin Pirtle, Aaron Corralez, Brandon Streck, Tyjonn Lockett, Brandon Lucero.*

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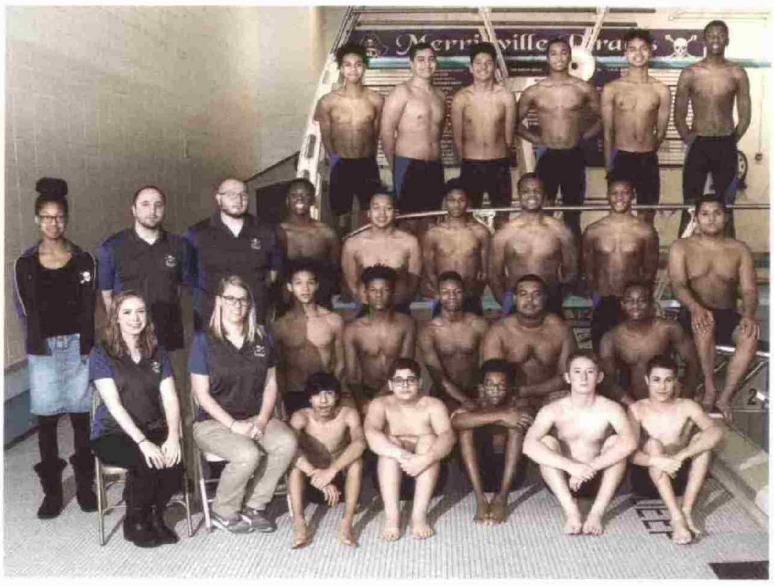
Girls' Swimming and Diving
Head Coach: Josh Harvoth
Front row: *Assistant Coach Shelby Short, Assistant Coach Nicole Temple, Marisol Ramirez, Isatou Samba, Morgan Turner, Aminah Samba;* ***Second row:*** *Megan Thomas, Coach Harvoth, Assistant Coach Jeremy Boyer, Diamond Wofford, Brookelyn Burks, De'jah Jones, Evelyn Hernandez, Janaye Thomas, Ebonie Ali;* ***Back row:*** *Chanelle LeGrand, Prysma Valdivia, Paige Raspberry, Bailey Rapavi, Jaden LaRue, Breanna Buggs.*



Boys' Swimming and Diving
Head Coach: Josh Harvoth
Front row: *Assistant Coach Shelby Short, Assistant Coach Nicole Temple, Briantt Herman-Gama, Lorenzo Espinoza, Torey Young, Cameron Louthan, Mason Martisauskas;* ***Second row:*** *Megan Thomas, Coach Harvoth, Assistant Coach Jeremy Boyer, Jordan Harmon, Wesley Davis, Brian Dilosa, Edmund Gunn Jr., Josiah Alford;* ***Third row:*** *Maliq Cherry, Andrew Keehn, Justin Jackson, Eric Lomax, George McClendon, Devonte Williams;* ***Back row:*** *Da'trell Williams, Alexis Lopez, Tyler Jasso, Kendall Tanniehill, Joseph Harris II, Joenathan Smith.*

Gymnastics
Head Coach: Diane Roberts
Front row: *Abigail Smith, Gabrielle Malave, Gabriela Aponte, Heather Osorio;* ***Second row:*** *Jadyn Lawson, Briana Thomas, Miranda Cuozzo, Alenah Guerrero, Cheyenne Roberts;* ***Third row:*** *Kaylah Nicholson, Jailah Gordon, Cryst'n Morgan, Kaniah Pharms;* ***Back row:*** *Assistant Coach Amy Aponte, Assistant Coach Nancy Phillips, Assistant Coach Nick Roberts, Coach Roberts, Assistant Coach Hunter Kaiser, Assistant Coach Bethany Rochefort.*

Boys' Golf
Coach: Ben Daniel
Keith Rochefort, Angelo Strong, Ari Stone-Tekeste, Coach Daniel, Elijah Royal, Carlos Sims, Marcus Norton, Justin Villanueva.

Girls' Tennis
Head Coach: Najeb Arifee
Front row: Elizabeth Reyes, Natlia Gonzales, Maria Tan, Victoria Terry, Katelyn Vinson, Jodi Corrales; Second row: Santana Southall, Serena Robertson, Ashlyn Robinson, Kamri Smith, Madison Bullock, Illah Abdul; Third row: Alana Winters, Joy Obong, Cheyenne Figueroa, Scarlett Peralta; Back row: Nijaia Jones, Isobel Collins, Assistant Coach Kyle Papp, Coach Arifee, Hailey Karpen, Emily DeCausemaker.

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Junior Varsity Baseball
Head Coach: Salvador Aguilar
Front row: Juan Maldonado, Mason Martisauskas, Anthony Rivera, Joshua Brady, Jacob McDonald; Second row: Angelo Winfield, Jonathan Spates, Nickolas Gray, Vincente Altieri; Back row: Armon Peloza, Jordan Santana, Maurice Weaver, Bryan Fields, Tyson Adams

Varsity Baseball
Head Coach: Paul Wirtz
Front row: Anthony Diaz, Reginald Carter, Raymond Span, Carlos Perez, Israel Woods; Second row: Ryan Smith, Darius Kendall, Maxwell Govert, Sven Strom, Bradlee Ronning; Third row: Brandon Lucero, Ayron Williams, Antoine King, Matthew Mallon; Back row: Assistant Coach Connor Buxton, Assistant Coach Mike Siwy, Coach Wirtz.

Villanueva, Jennifer 28, 84, 136, 160, 171
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Junior Varsity Softball
Head Coach: Adam Fricke
Front row: Brittney Greer, TaiYauna Howard, Joslyn Munoz, Maria Guardiola, Angenae Grady, Deverieux Coleman; Second row: Serena Roldan, Tacoya Johnson, Kristah Royster, La'Deja Rand, Dana Cheairs; Back row: Assistant Coach Amber Welsh, Naomi Lux, Jasmin Creal, Jamia Harris, Leah Lewis, Coach Fricke.

Varsity Softball
Head Coach: Kristina Sides
Front row: Tatiana Gilbert, Renee Bozeman, Paige Wood, Kennedy Tanniehill, Kayla Alcox; Second row: Tonya Gray, Marissa Ramos, Mi-Chae' Smith, Jennifer Villanueva, Bailey Rapavi, Allison Vanderbilt; Back row: Coach Sides, Vasotti Mottley, Makayla Pearson, Brittney Williams, Alexis Ramos, Xavier King, Assistant Coach Bill Kornacki.

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Girls' Track and Field

Head Coach: Kelly Kratz

Front row: Amaya Butler, Sadia Hildebrand, Romella Bozeman, Caiyla Davis, Tykia Jones, Christina Smith, Marisol Ramirez; Second row: Diamond Taher, Shamiya Beasley, Brendea McNeal, Jadyn Lawson, Payton McHenry, Amaya Kirk, Kiyah Walker, Alenah Guerrero; Third row: Amani Alvarez, Kaniyah Pharms, Raena Bass, Arianna Chatman, Gia Gridiron, Brianna Brown, Ceana Escalante; Fourth row: Makayla Scott, Alysa Coleman, Janaye Thomas, Breonna Baggett, Emily Lesich, Leah Sams, Natalie Dye, Aniya McClendon; Fifth row: Brisa Sanford, Alicia Fields, Zarria Moss, Kiarra Thompson, Jaihla Gordon, Carnisa Laster, Dionna Anderson; Sixth row: Akilah Ware, Ma'kaela Patterson, Najla Louis, Meagan Thomas, Chyna Royster, Tori Bryant, Raegene Thomas; Back row: Coach Kratz, Assistant Coach Gary Lindsey, Assistant Coach Chris Richardson, Assistant Coach Brian Past, Assistant Coach Michael Hoffman, Assistant Coach Branden Wesby.

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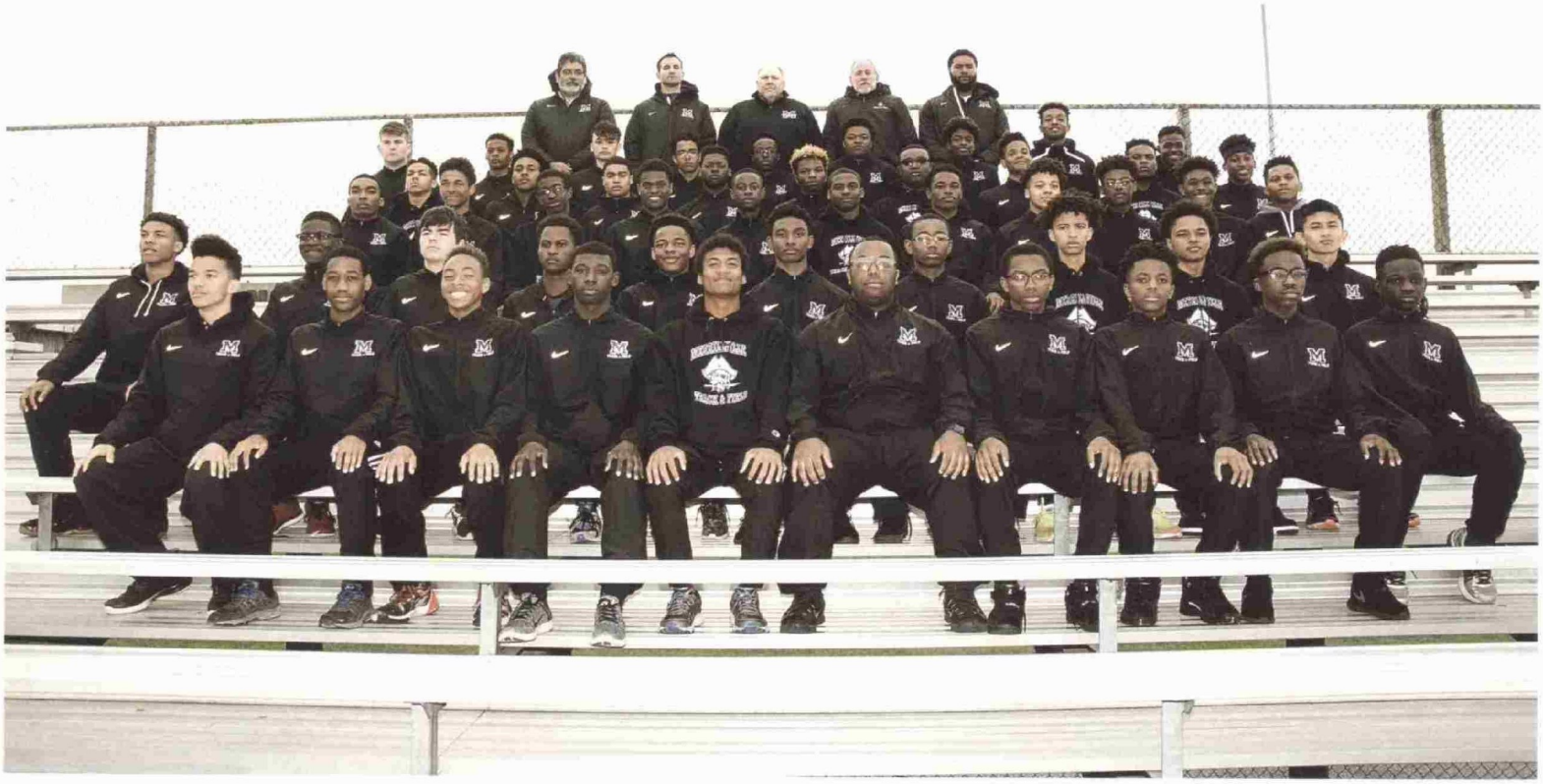

Boys' Track and Field

Head Coach: Patrick Coffey

First row: Dominique Wood, Nathan Dye, Nigel Phillips, Payton Felton, Gabriel Ochoa, Keylian Brown, Korey Parker, Malachi Williams, Dre'Shon Garrett, Robert Buggs; Second row: Xavier Griffin, Jaylen Glass, Nikola Djukic, Tylum Moncrease, Aubin Robinson, Marvin White, Tylee Williams, Xavier Martinez-Scott, William Fulton, Masayoshi Nagin; Third row: Rackesh Ragoo, Kadari Exon, Maurice Patrick, Chaz Sales, Nigel Taylor, Brett Norton, Anthony Banks, Andrew Keehn, Wesley Davis, Tyler Henderson, Justin Rhodes; Fourth row: Kaylin Brookshire, Daijon Gray, Zyriek Nickson, Drew Bailey, Cameron Thompson, Jay'Lon Gordon, Thomas Golden Jr., Alfred Stubbs, Davin Latiker; Fifth row: Anthony Atria, Kenyatta Smith, Alexander Navarro, Devin Pope, Timothy Porter IV, Anthony Sams, Darryl Robinson, Sean Roche', Robert Williams; Back row: Assistant Coach Luis Lopez, Coach Coffey, Assistant Coach Brian Past, Assistant Coach Gary Lindsey, Assistant Coach Anthony Curry.

Colophon

As members of Quill and Scroll, the Indiana High School Press Association and the National Scholastic Press Association, the Merrillville High School yearbook staff presents the 92nd volume of *Merrillvue*.

The third hour yearbook class at Merrillville High School in Merrillville, Indiana, produced the yearbook. It was printed at Josten's Yearbooks in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Using 100 Gloss paper for the pages, the book sports a custom high gloss litho cover featuring the words of the theme, Rewind.

Body copy is Bergamo 10 and caption copy is Bergamo Semi-Bold Italic 9. Headlines are Connie Three Dee and Hudson.

To create this book, the staff used Josten's Yearbook Avenue Designer, Microsoft Word, Adobe Photoshop, CorelDRAW X4. Most of our photographs were shot using Canon Rebel T5s.

Books were sold at school and online at jostensyearbooks. com. Book prices in the fall were set at $60, with specials for namestamping and icons. Prices increased mid-year to $65, and they were set finally at $68.

Extra copies are available in the fall of 2017 in the Publications Room.

With the counsel of Mrs. Teresa Procter, co-editors Cynthia Gomez and Diontae Phillips used their creativity to create a book that depicts the character of the students and the staff at Merrillville High. Throughout the year, the entire staff shared laughs, memories and love to capture all of the amazing events that go on in the school.

We'd first like to thank our adviser, Mrs. Procter, for everything she has done with our staff in her last year of teaching this course. Without her, we would not have been able to produce this yearbook for the school.

The staff also thanks Mr. Phil Page, our sales representative from Jostens, for his help in producing and selling the book.

Thank you to Lifetouch Inc. for taking the underclass and faculty pictures.

Also, a special thank you to Mrs. Janet Anderson and professional photographers, Tom DiGrispino and Steve Itoga.

The staff also thanks the Technology Department, the Guidance Office and the secretaries in the Main Office.

The Athletic Department, Ms. Janis Qualizza, Ms. Amy Beckham, Mrs. Missy Bushemi, Ms. Nicki Jusko and Mr. Jeff Fairbairn have always supported our efforts in creating the sports section. A special thank you for their assistance.

Thank you to Mr. Brian Past and the PNN staff for their help in advertising the book.

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